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SEPT.

NO. 75

CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

READER,
ARE YOU
READY
FOR ONE
OF THE
GREATEST?



"ULTIVAC IS LOOSE!"

NIGHT... AND A SHRIeking SUMMER STORM THAT HAS BEEN THREATENING ALL DAY, BURSTS LOOSE LIKE AN ENRAGED BEAST, GROWLING ITS THUNDER, FLASHING LIGHTNING LIKE GLEAMING YELLOW EYES, SLASHING AT THE CITY'S CANYONS AS IF WITH GIANT CLAWS...



AND HIGH UP IN A HOTEL ROOM, OVERLOOKING THE ROILING SCENE...



I DUNNO IF WE'LL BE WEARING THESE DUDS WHILE WE'RE HERE ON VACATION, RED, BUT I TOOK 'MINE JUST IN CASE!

I CAN'T WAIT TO GET BACK INTO MY UNIFORM, ROCKY! I'VE BEEN RECUPERATING SO LONG, I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL LIKE A SENIOR CITIZEN!

AW, COME OFF IT, PROF! NOTHIN'S WRONG WITH YOUR NOGGIN', AND THAT'S WHAT COUNTS!



HEY, IT'S ACE--!

AN' CORINNA! HOW'D YOU KNOW WE WERE IN TOWN?

ACE PHONED... AND I JUST HAD TO SEE YOU BOYS!



WHEW! IT'S BRUTAL OUTSIDE!

HERE! LEMME HELP YOU OUTTA THAT, THEN GIMME YOUR WET SHOES! GO SIT BY THE FIRE TO DRY YOURSELF OUT!



WELL, WHATTAWE DO?

I KIN SHOW CORINNA SOME TRICKS I DO WITH MY WEIGHTS AN' BARBELLS!

LAY OFF, YOU OVERGROWN DROPOUT! I MEAN WHATTAWE TALK ABOUT?



I'VE GOT JUST THE STORY! THERE'S A GIRL INVOLVED, TOO! REMEMBER JUNE ROBBINS--AND THE FRIGHTENING MENACE THAT WAS ULTIVAC?

IT GOES BACK TO WHEN THE WORLD BEGAN TO KNOW ABOUT US...

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ULTIVAC IS LOOSE!

HE IS NEITHER MAN NOR BEAST! BUT HE IS ALIVE... IN A
WORLD THAT FEARS HIM!



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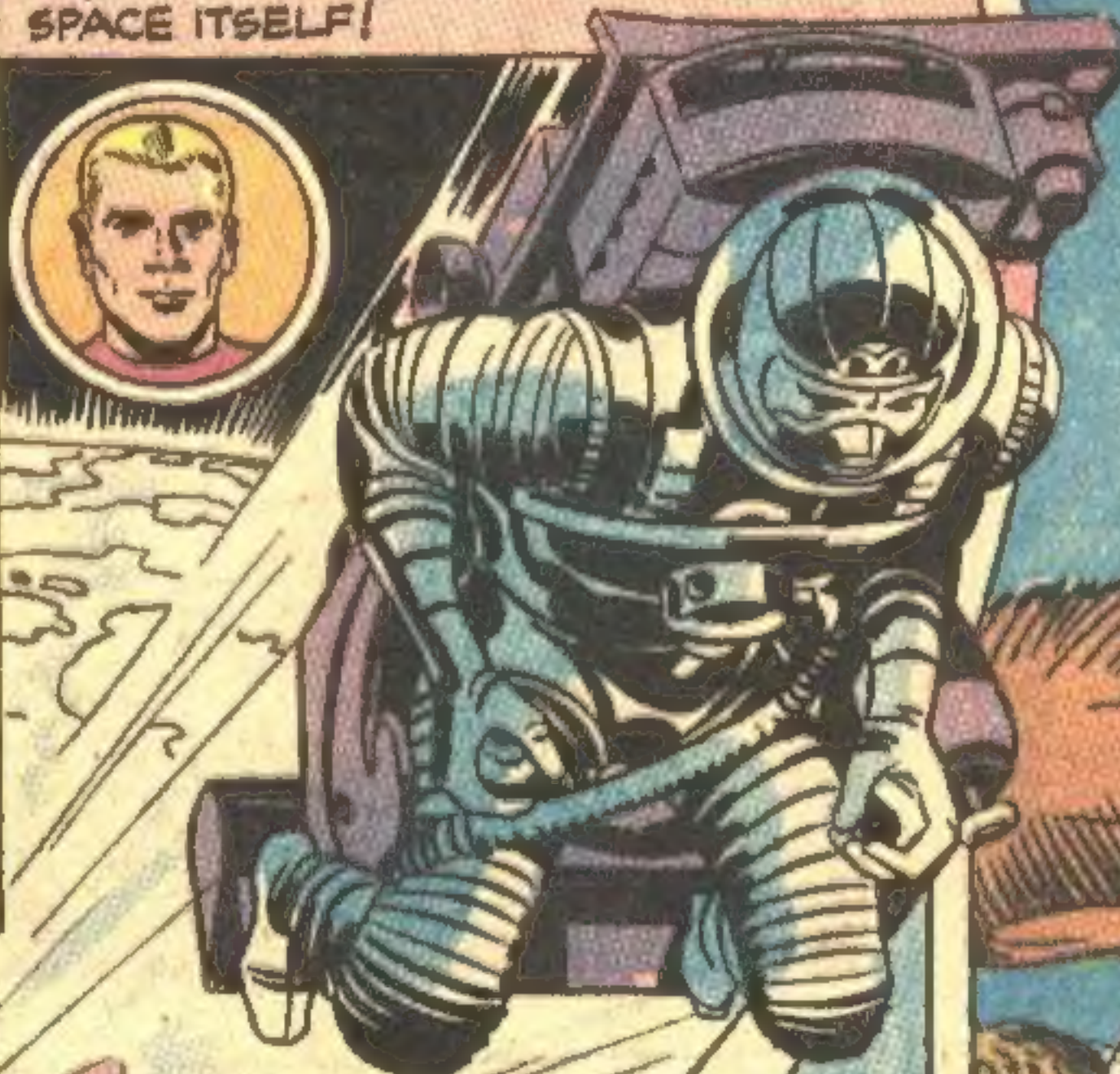
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN STRANGE FORCES BEYOND
MAN'S RECKONING PRODUCE A NEW FORM OF LIFE?
THE QUESTION CAN BE EXPLOSIVE, AND MEN MAY HAVE TO
DIE TO SOLVE IT! THIS IS THE EXCITING PROBLEM WHICH ROARS
IN FROM THE OUTER DARKNESS TO BAIT THAT RECKLESS GROUP
OF DAREDEVILS...

THE
CHALLENGERS OF THE **UNKNOWN**

CATAPULTED INTO WORLD FAME BY DEEDS OF INDESCRIBABLE DARING, FOUR MEN HAVE SWORN TO TREAD THE PATH WHICH ALL MEN FEAR... THE DANGEROUS ROAD BEYOND THE THINGS WE KNOW! THEY CALL THEMSELVES...

The
**CHALLENGERS
OF THE
UNKNOWN!**

ONE OF THEM IS JET PILOT **ACE MORGAN**, WHO TESTS AIR FORCE EQUIPMENT ON THE THRESHOLD OF SPACE ITSELF!



ON ONE OF MOUNT EVEREST'S MOST TREACHEROUS PEAKS, **RED RYAN** GAMBLES WITH HIS LIFE AGAINST THE SHEER ICY WALLS THAT RISE ABOVE THE CLOUDS!



ANOTHER IS **PROF HALEY**, WHO DARES TO EXPLORE THE SEA WHERE NO MAN WOULD RISK THE CRUSHING DEPTHS!



AND WHEN THE UNKNOWN TESTS A MAN'S STAMINA AND STRENGTH TO THEIR LIMIT, **ROCKY DAVIS**, CHAMPION WRESTLER, WILL RISK THAT TEST... ANY PLACE... ANY TIME!



THERE IS NO DANGER, DARE OR RISK THESE MEN WILL NOT ACCEPT! THEY'VE WALKED AWAY UNHARMED FROM A PLANE CRASH THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN FATAL. THIS HAS FORMED THEIR PHILOSOPHY... "WE ARE LIVING ON BORROWED TIME!" AND JUDGING FROM THEIR PREVIOUS ADVENTURE, THEY HAVE LIVED UP TO THEIR CODE!

I'LL NEVER FORGET THE CHALLENGE OF THAT SORCERER'S BOX--THE THING'S THAT CAME OUT OF IT!

YEAH... A SEA-GOING GIANT... WHO WAS MADE OUT OF PURE THOUGHT!

AND THAT STRANGE SUN WHICH GAVE NO HEAT... IT FROZE ME SOLID!



*SEE CHALLENGERS NO. 64 and NO. 65.

THE UNKNOWN HAS A MILLION DOORS, MEN! WE'VE OPENED JUST A FEW. NOW, LET'S GET TO THE OTHERS! IF WE HAVE TO DIE, LET'S NOT DO IT THROUGH BOREDOM!

OKAY, PROF! DID WE GET ANY NEW OFFERS? DOES SOMEONE WANT TO SHOOT US THROUGH A CYCLOTRON? EXPLORE THE RIDDLE OF THE SPHINX?



THERE'S PLENTY OF MAIL. ONE OF THESE LETTERS MAY HOLD OUR NEXT PROJECT!

IT'LL TAKE HOURS TO READ THEM ALL!



WELL, LET'S GET ON WITH IT... WE CAN'T EXPECT THE UNKNOWN TO WALK IN ON US AND ANNOUNCE ITSELF!



SUDDENLY...

YOU ARE THE CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN, NICHT WAHR?

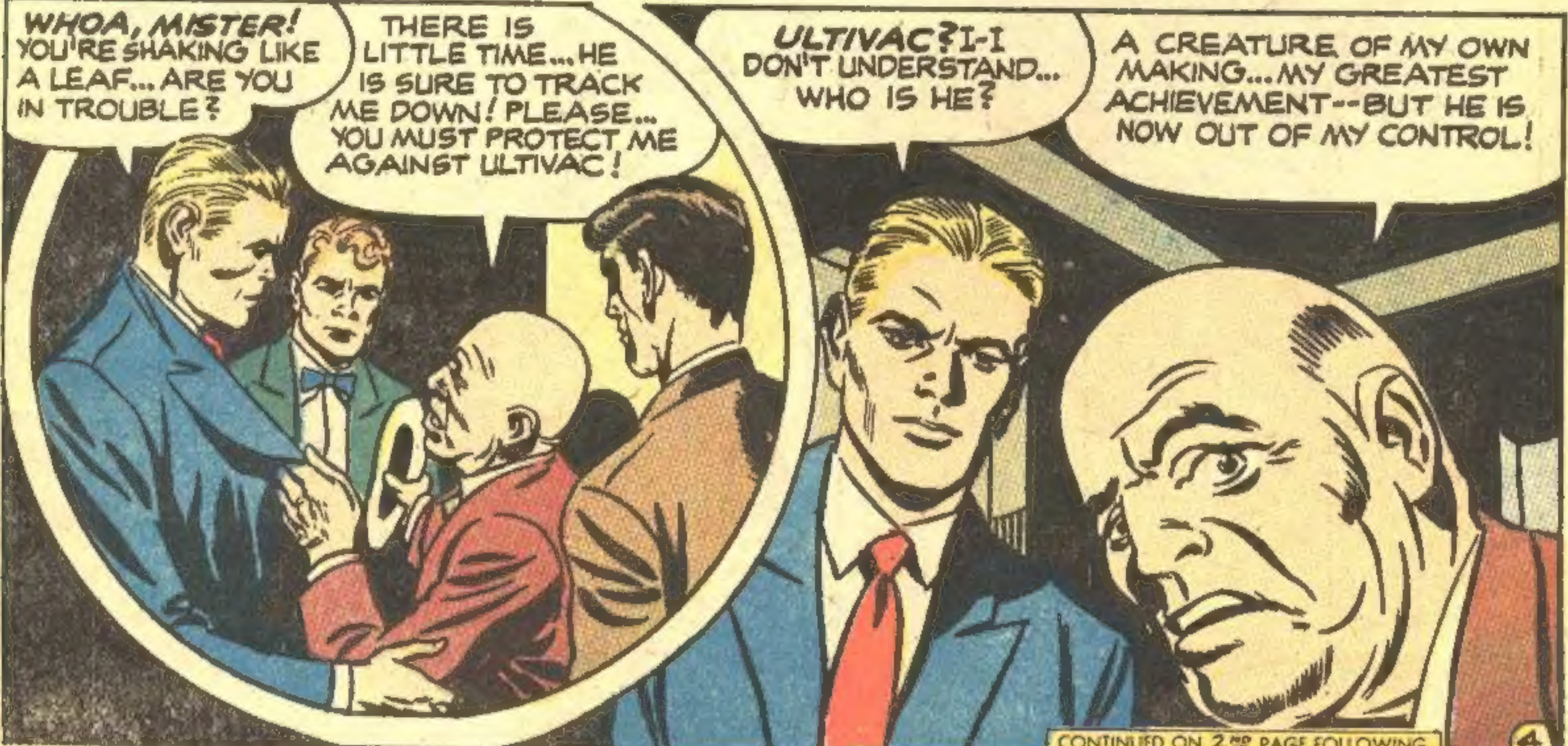


WHOA, MISTER! YOU'RE SHAKING LIKE A LEAF... ARE YOU IN TROUBLE?

THERE IS LITTLE TIME... HE IS SURE TO TRACK ME DOWN! PLEASE... YOU MUST PROTECT ME AGAINST ULTIVAC!

ULTIVAC? I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND... WHO IS HE?

A CREATURE OF MY OWN MAKING... MY GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT--BUT HE IS NOW OUT OF MY CONTROL!





HESSE'S STORY IS SUDDENLY INTERRUPTED BY ROCKY...

OKAY...YOU BUILT THE MACHINE! GET TO THE POINT...WHAT HAPPENED?

SOMETHING STRANGE AND UNCANNY...SOMETHING INSIDE THE MACHINE! AN ACCIDENTAL PROCESS BEYOND OUR SCOPE!



BUT THIS "ULTIVAC" YOU'RE AFRAID OF...HOW DOES HE FIT IN?

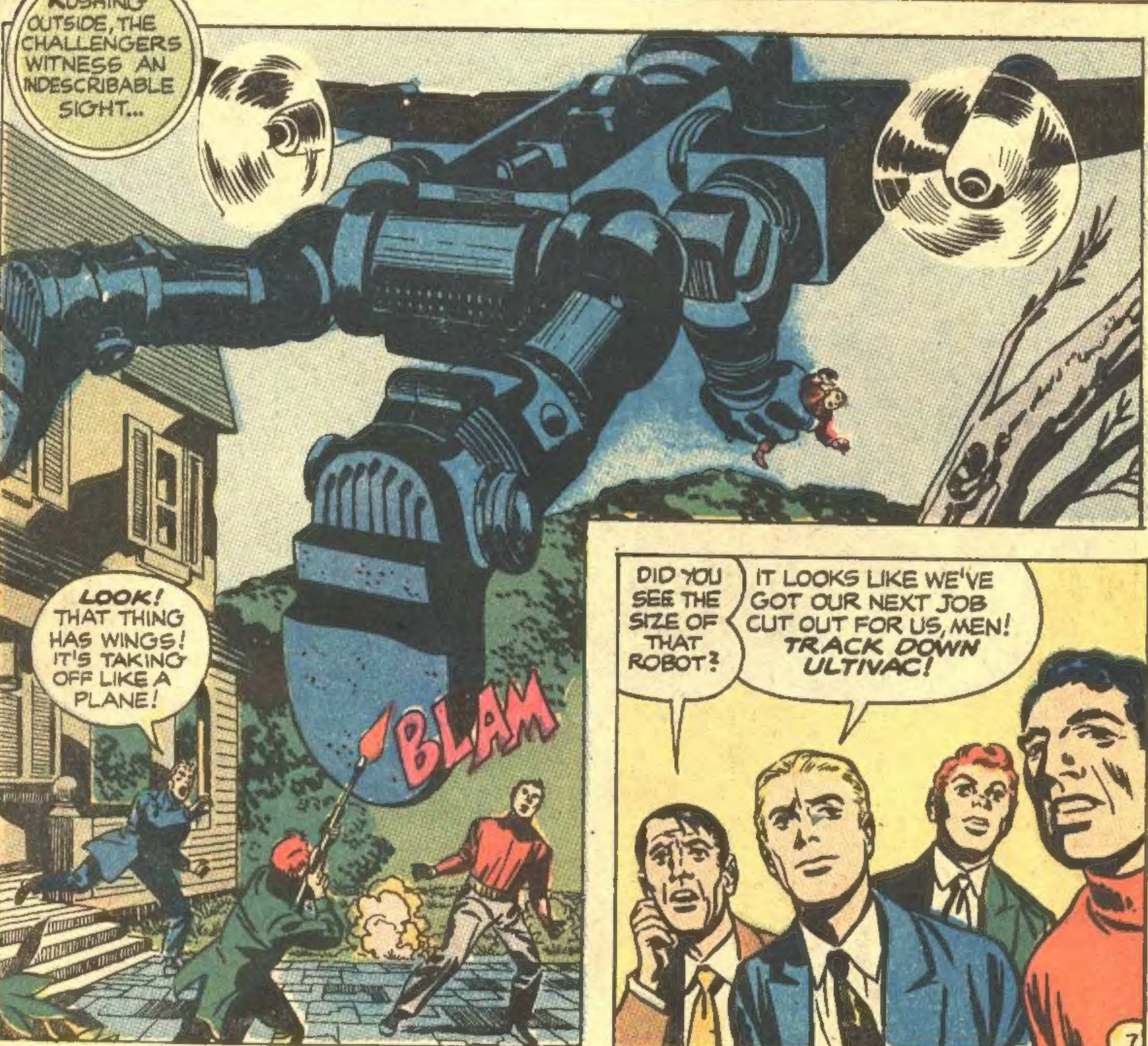
IT'S TOO LATE! HE'S FOLLOWED ME HERE! DON'T YOU SEE?



GREAT DAY IN THE MORNING!



ULTIVAC IS THE MACHINE! ULTIVAC IS ALIVE!!

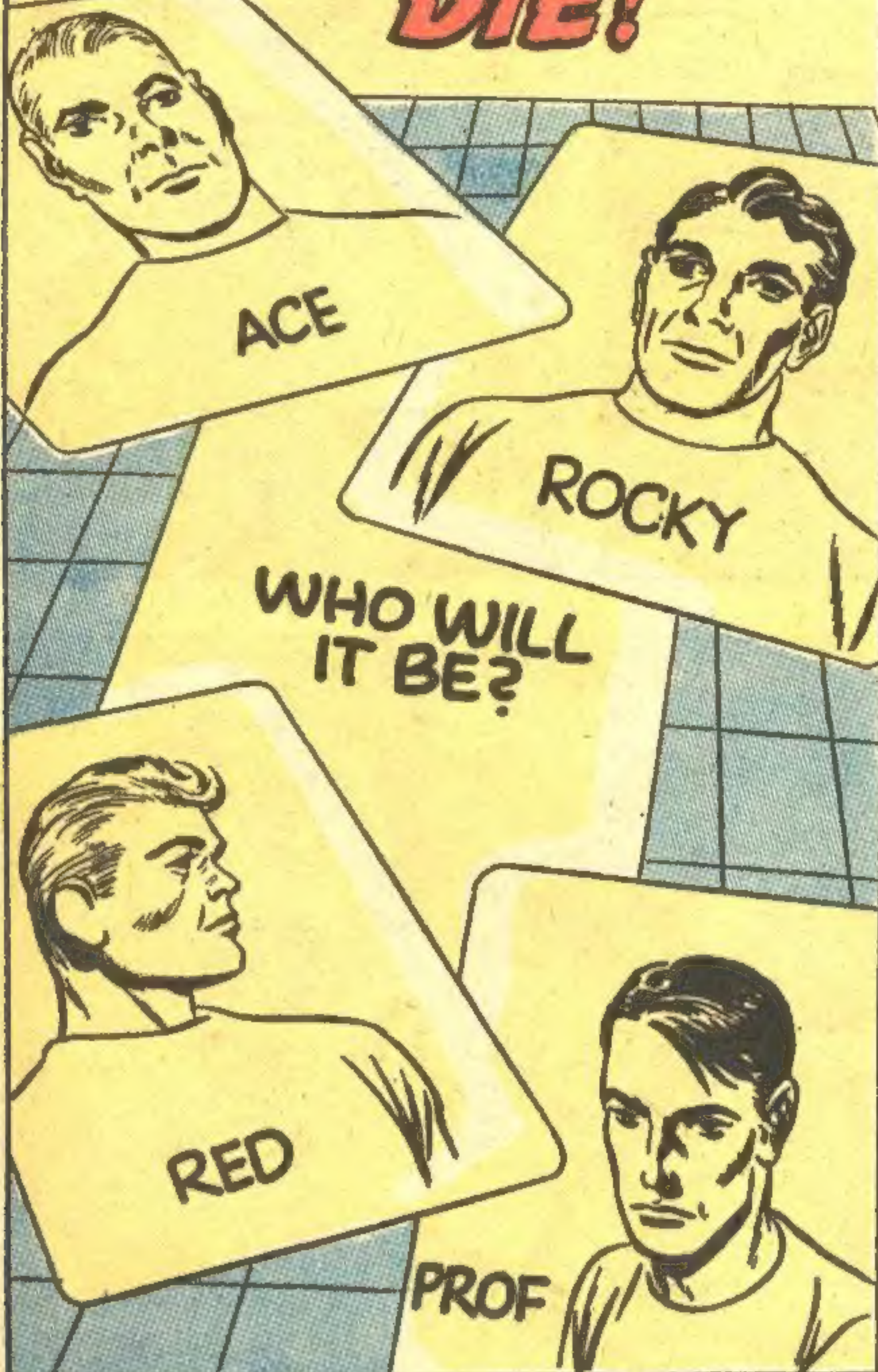


THE CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

FACE THE GRIMMEST MOMENT OF THEIR LIVES IN THEIR HUNT FOR ULTIVAC! FOR IN THE WORLD OF THE AMAZING CALCULATING MACHINES, THE DARK UNKNOWN STRIKES SWIFTLY...WITH MATHEMATICAL CERTAINTY! AND THE FIRST BOMBSHELL THROWN AT THE HUNTERS IS A TERRIBLE PREDICTION!

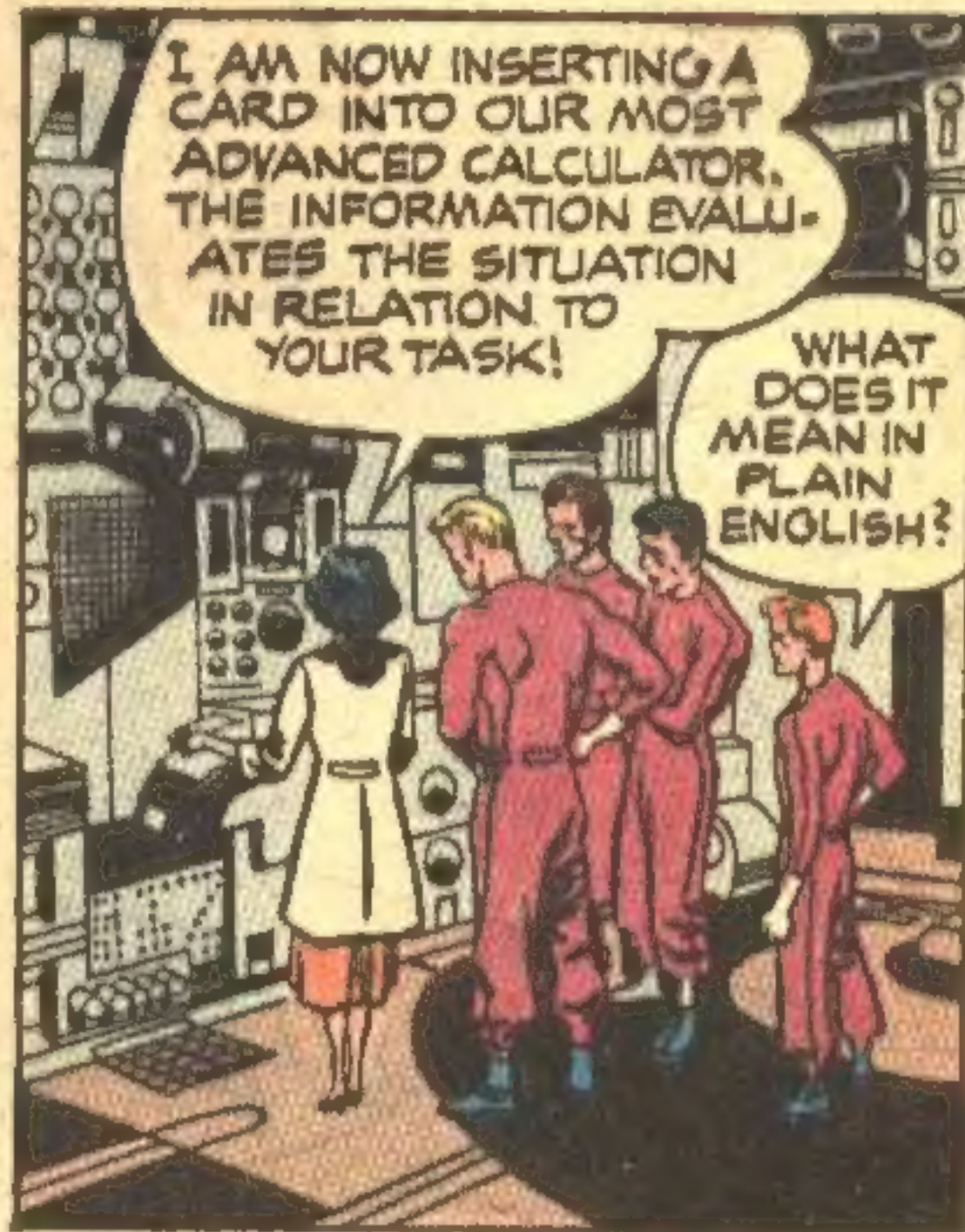
A CHALLENGER MUST DIE!

CHAPTER TWO...



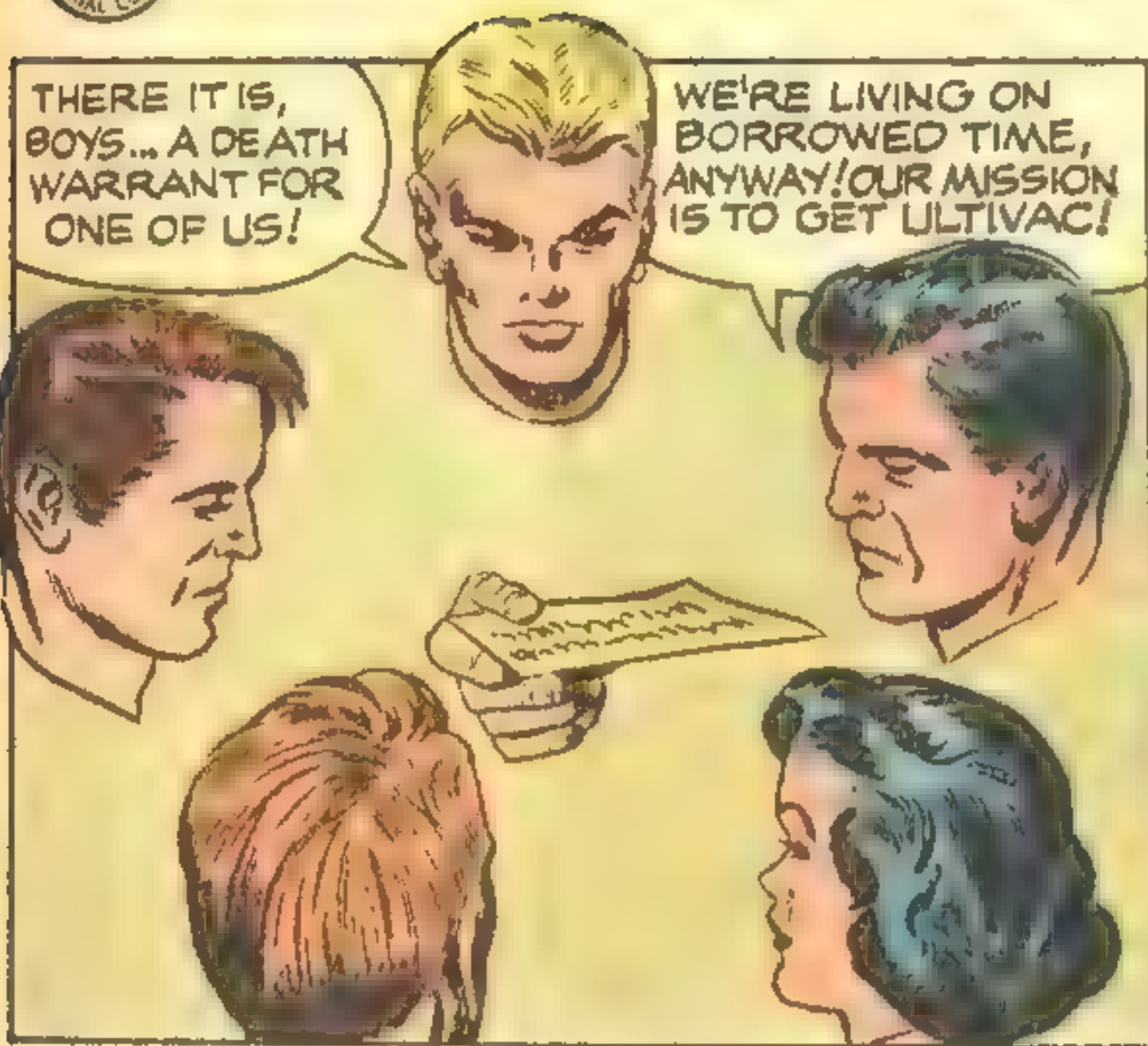
IN THE HUM AND CHATTER OF A TOP-SECRET LABORATORY IN WASHINGTON, D.C., THE CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN PAY A VISIT TO THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS!





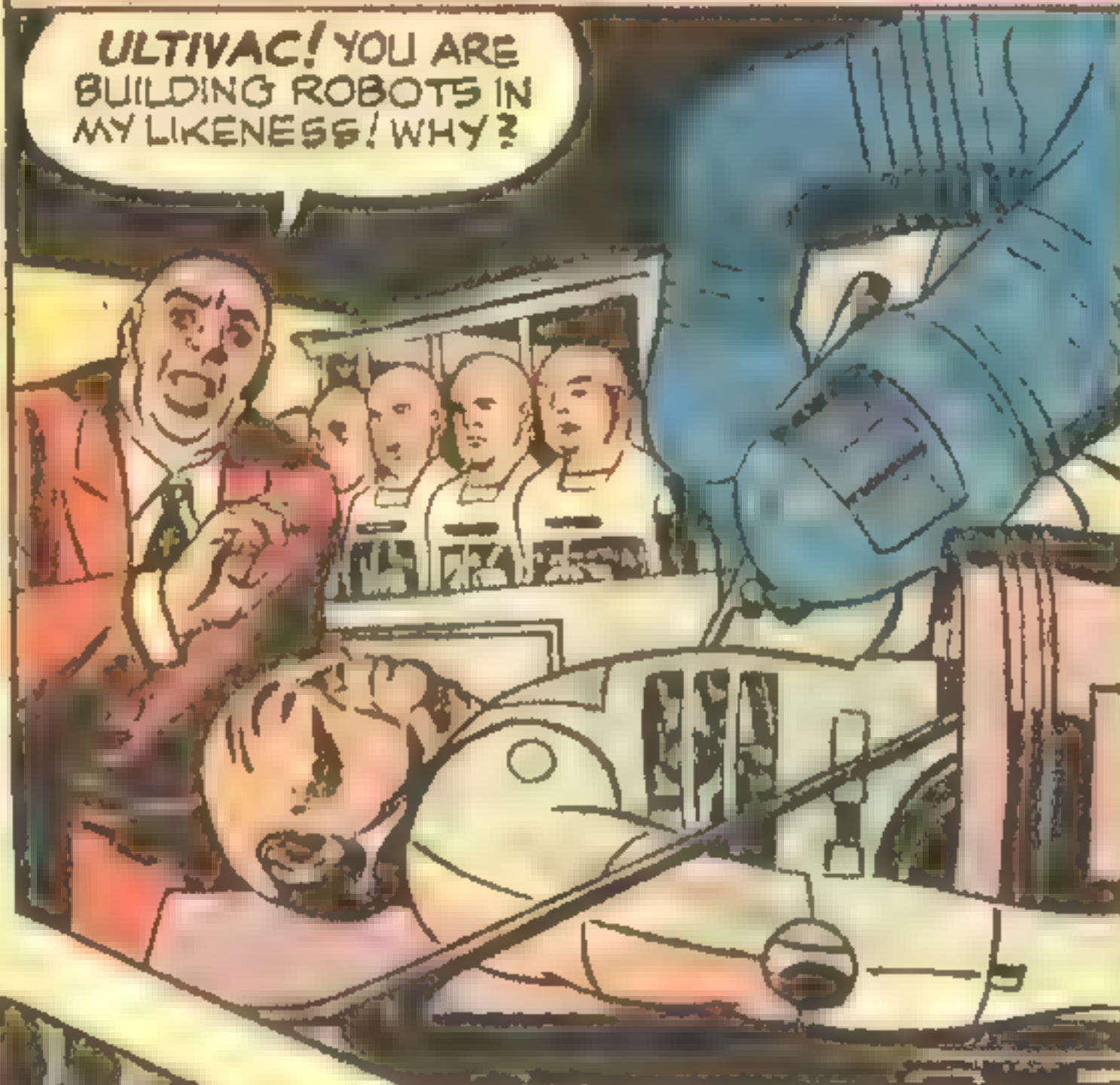
THERE IT IS, BOYS... A DEATH WARRANT FOR ONE OF US!

WE'RE LIVING ON BORROWED TIME, ANYWAY! OUR MISSION IS TO GET ULTIVAC!

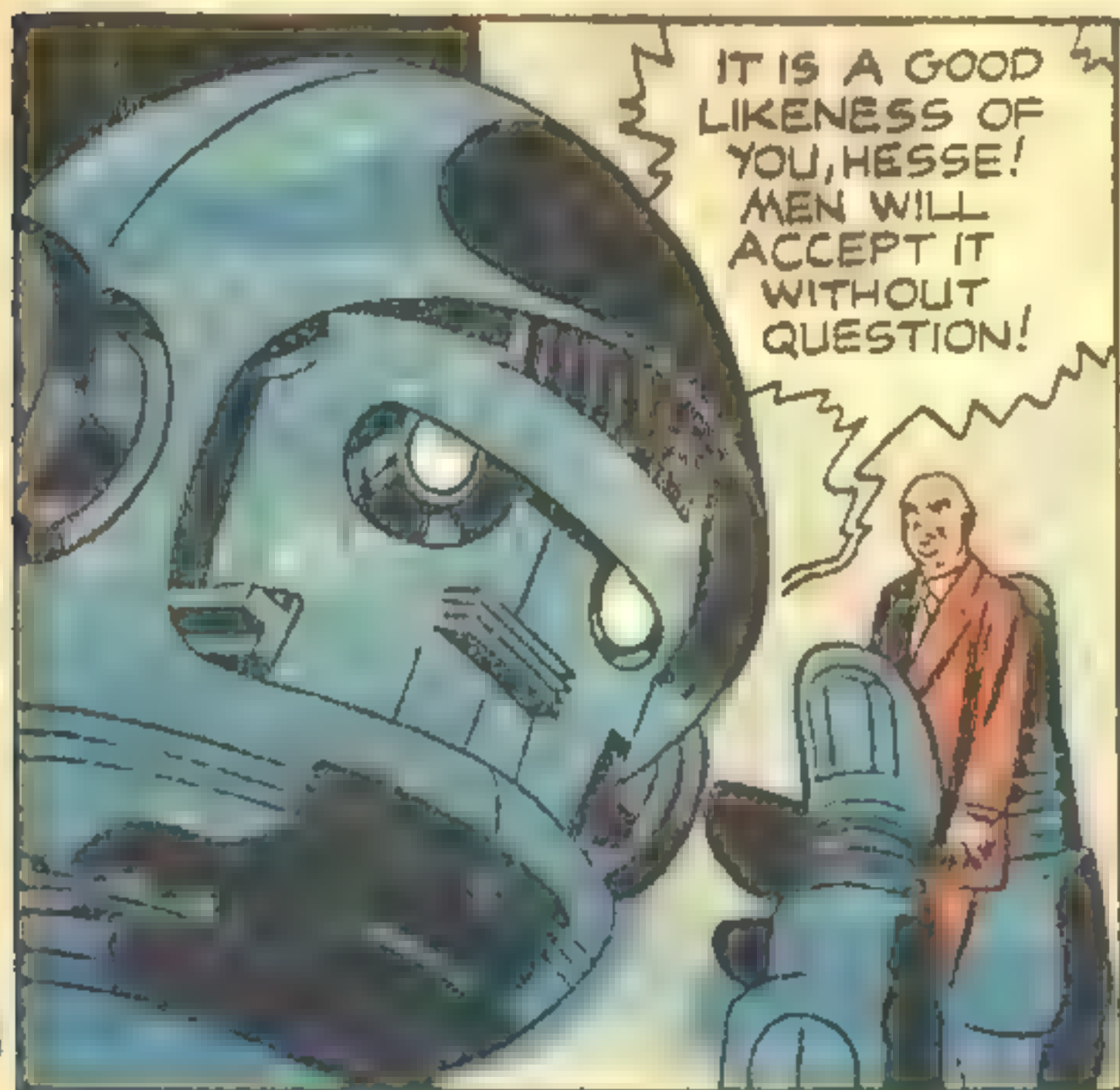


MEANWHILE, HIDDEN FROM THE EYES OF MEN, ULTIVAC HAS PLANS OF HIS OWN!

ULTIVAC! YOU ARE BUILDING ROBOTS IN MY LIKENESS! WHY?



IT IS A GOOD LIKENESS OF YOU, HESSE! MEN WILL ACCEPT IT WITHOUT QUESTION!



I NEED SUPPLIES! OIL, CHEMICALS... THE SUBSTANCES OF SURVIVAL! THESE ROBOTS WILL GET THEM FOR ME!



LATER, FROM A CONCEALED CAVE OPENING, A THOUSAND ROBOT FELIX HESSES SWARM INTO THE OPEN ON THEIR ERRAND FOR ULTIVAC!



BUT THE F.B.I., OPERATING CLOSELY WITH THE CHALLENGERS, HAVE ISSUED A CIRCULAR TO THEIR AGENTS... ORDERING A DRAGNET FOR HESSE!

CIRCULAR 4179 TO ALL AGENTS

ARREST OR CAPTURE THIS MAN ON SIGHT!

HE IS WANTED FOR QUESTIONING IN A MATTER VITAL TO NATIONAL SECURITY!

SUSPECT'S RECORD: UNNAZI ...

WORKS IN GROUPS. HIS CAPTURE MAY BE CONTESTED BY FORCES BELIEVED TO BE ORGANIZED ON SUPERIOR LEVEL.

THIS IS AN EMERGENCY Order!

517621	517621
FELIX HESSE	
HEIGHT - 5' 4"	
WEIGHT - 220 lbs.	
KNOWN TO WEAR ...	



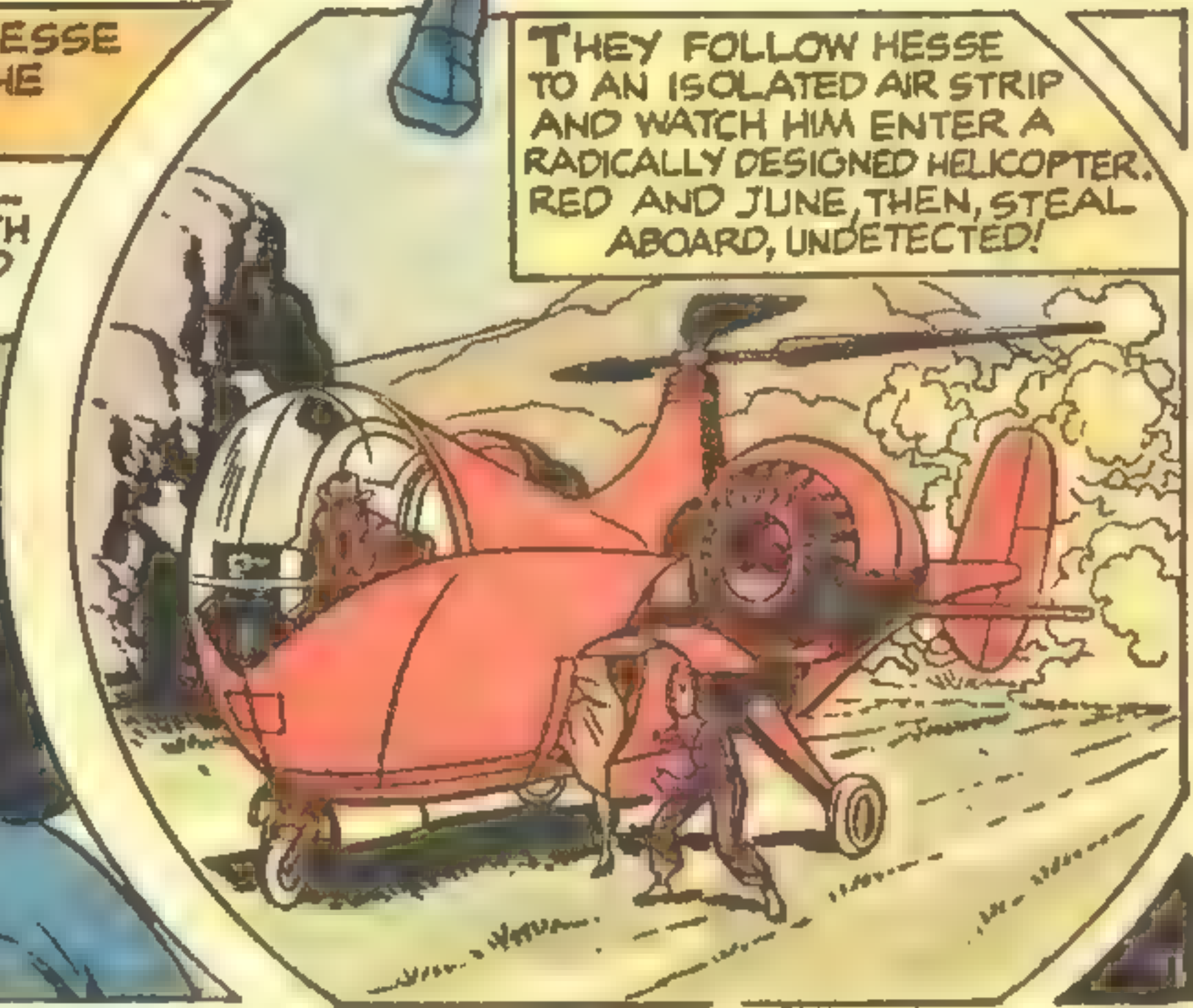
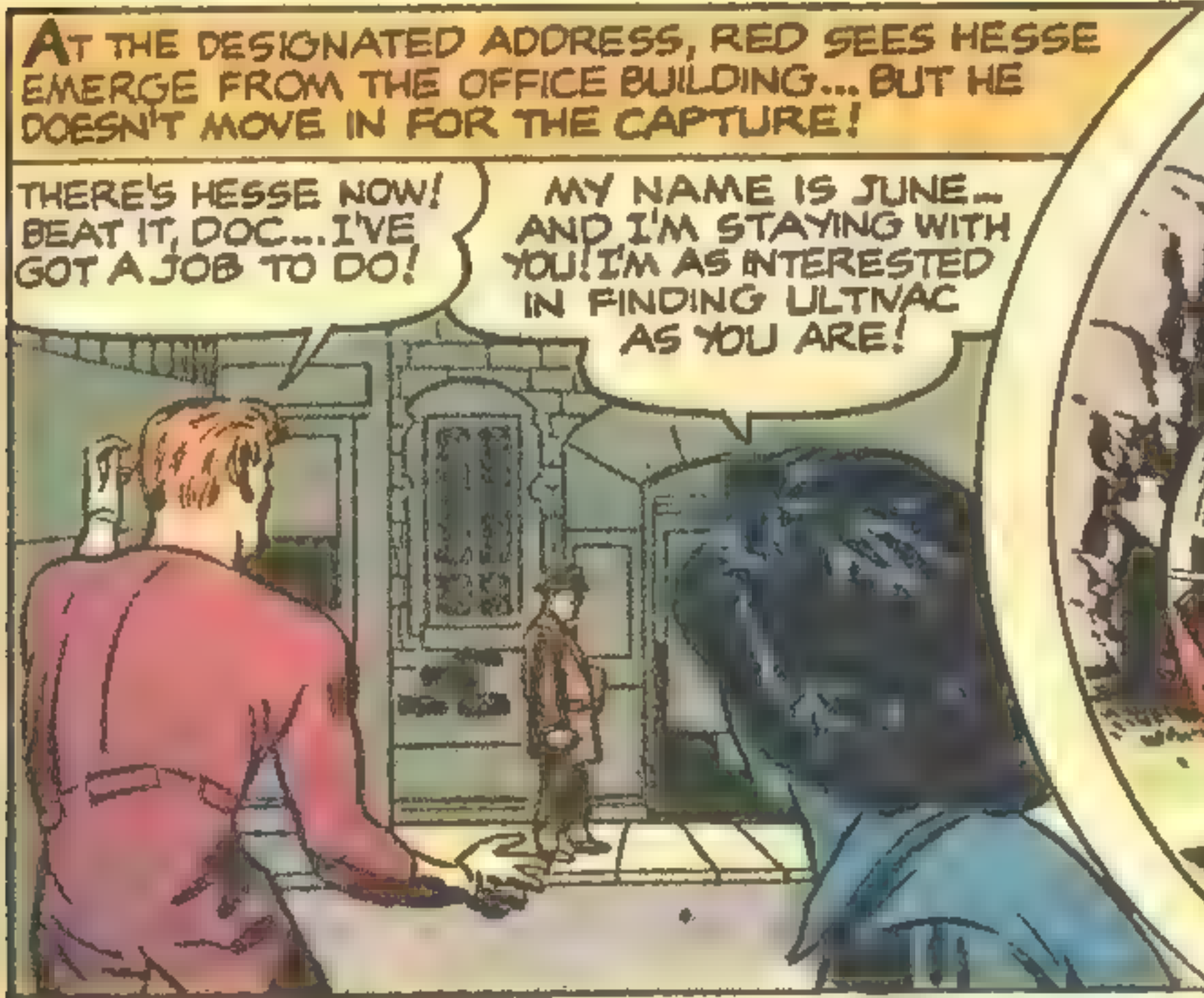
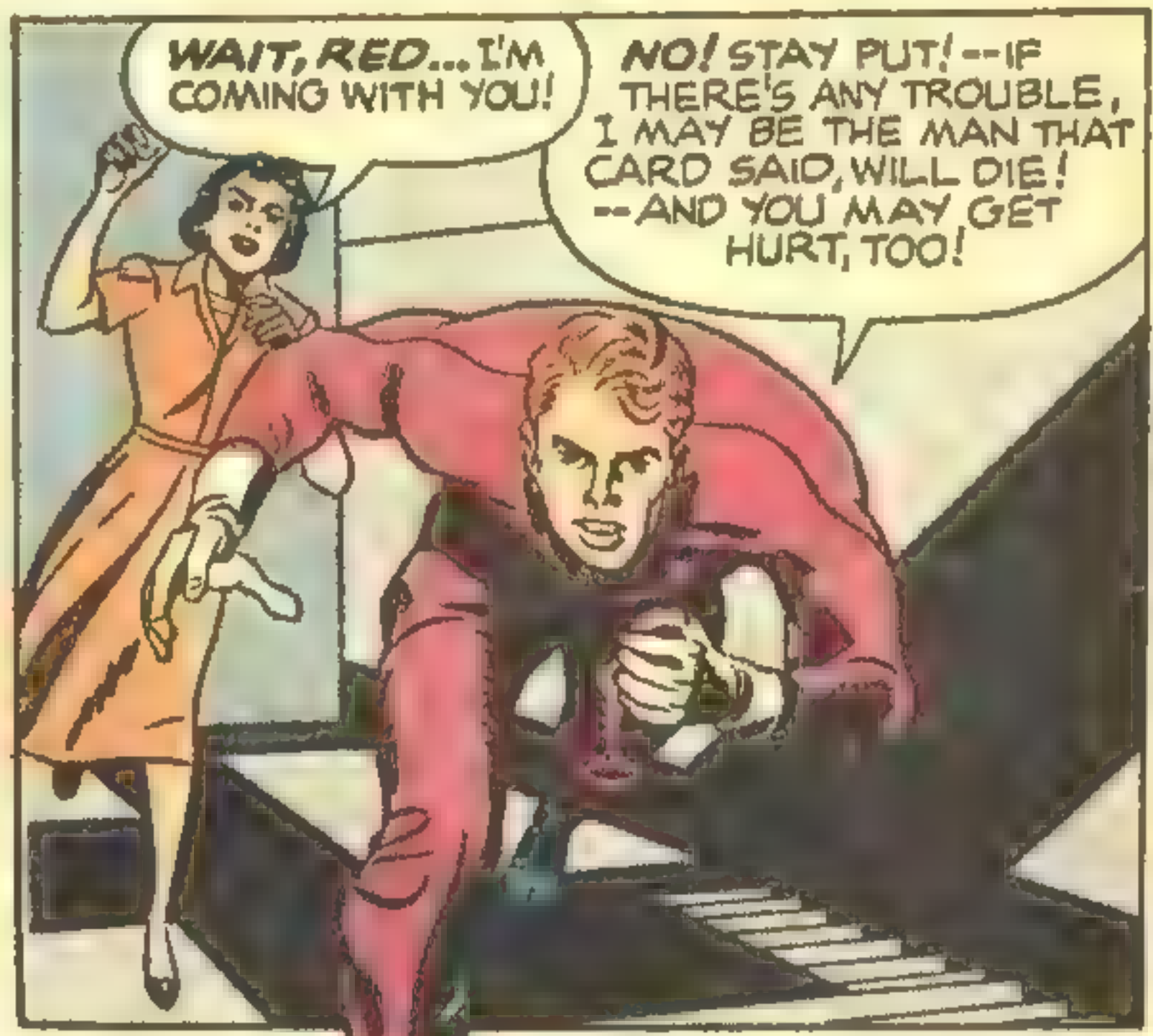
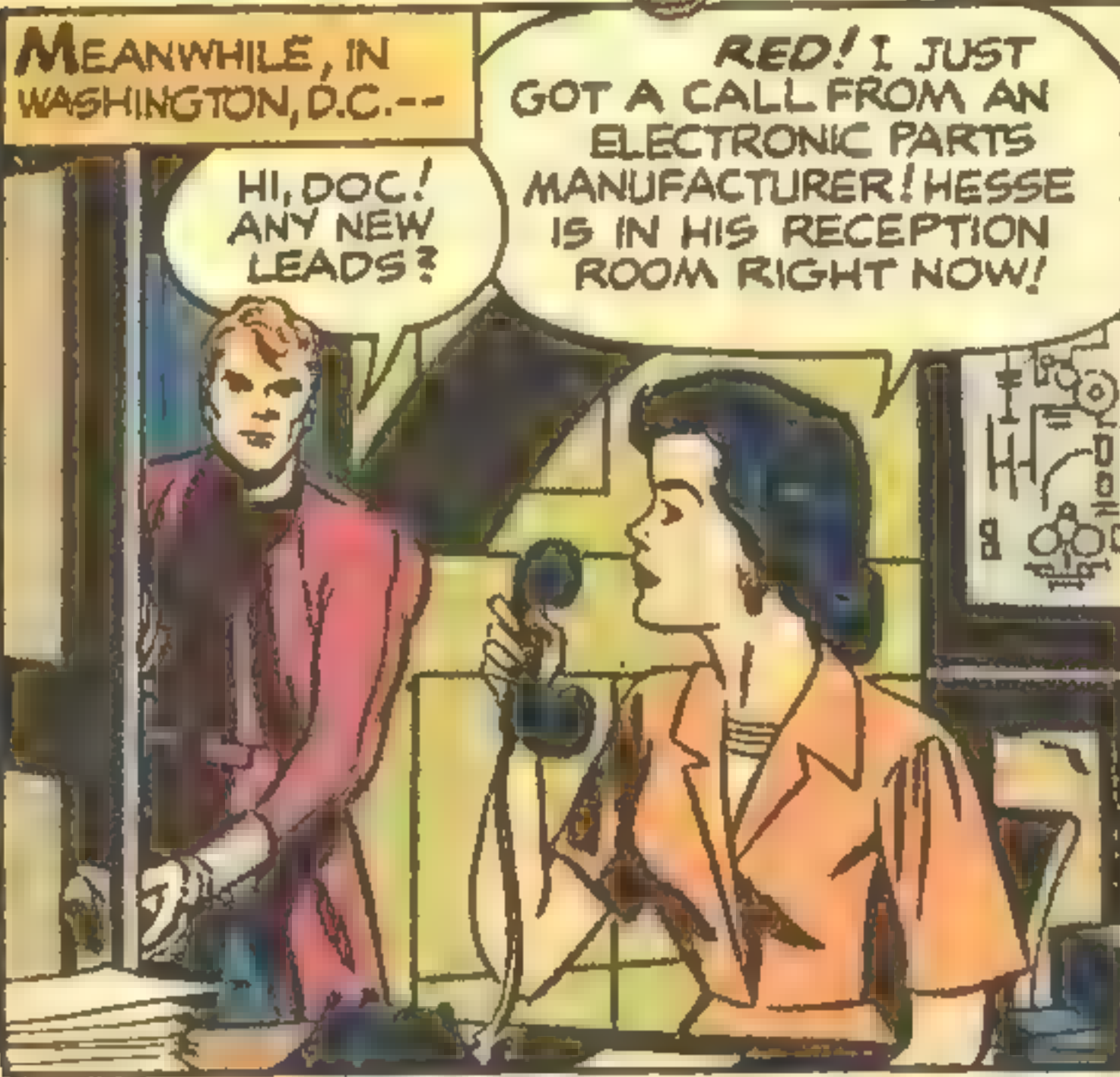
CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN



HESSE IS SPOTTED IN MANY DIFFERENT CITIES BY ALERT F.B.I. MEN!

BUT HE IS NEVER TAKEN INTO CUSTODY!

FOR THE HESSE ROBOTS HAVE A "BUILT-IN" DESTRUCTION ORDER! THEY DISINTEGRATE THEMSELVES BEFORE THEY CAN BE CAUGHT!



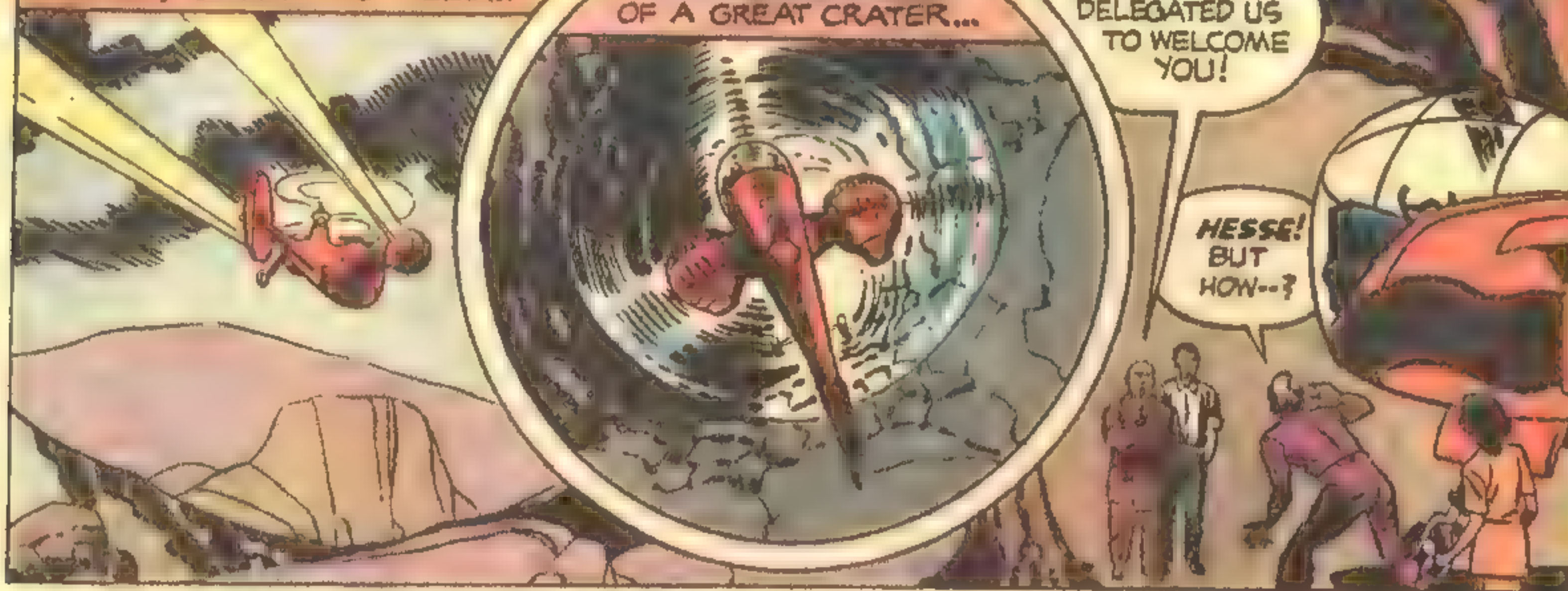
THE HELICOPTER COVERS COUNTLESS MILES BEFORE IT DIPS LOW OVER BARREN, FOREBODING HILLS...

...AND DESCENDS INTO THE DARKNESS OF A GREAT CRATER...

...WHERE A SURPRISE AWAITS THEM!

ULTIVAC HAS DELEGATED US TO WELCOME YOU!

HESSE! BUT HOW--?



THERE'S NO PILOT IN THAT JET COPTER... HE DISINTEGRATED IN MID-FLIGHT! IT WAS **ULTIVAC** WHO FLEW YOU IN BY REMOTE CONTROL! I'M THE **REAL** FELIX HESSE... ALSO IN THE SERVICE OF **ULTIVAC**!

THEN **ULTIVAC** CONTROLS YOU, TOO!



YEAH...HE'S THE BOSS... FOR NOW! HE KEEPS US AROUND LIKE PETS...SO WE CAN REPAIR HIM IF HE RUNS INTO SERIOUS DAMAGE!

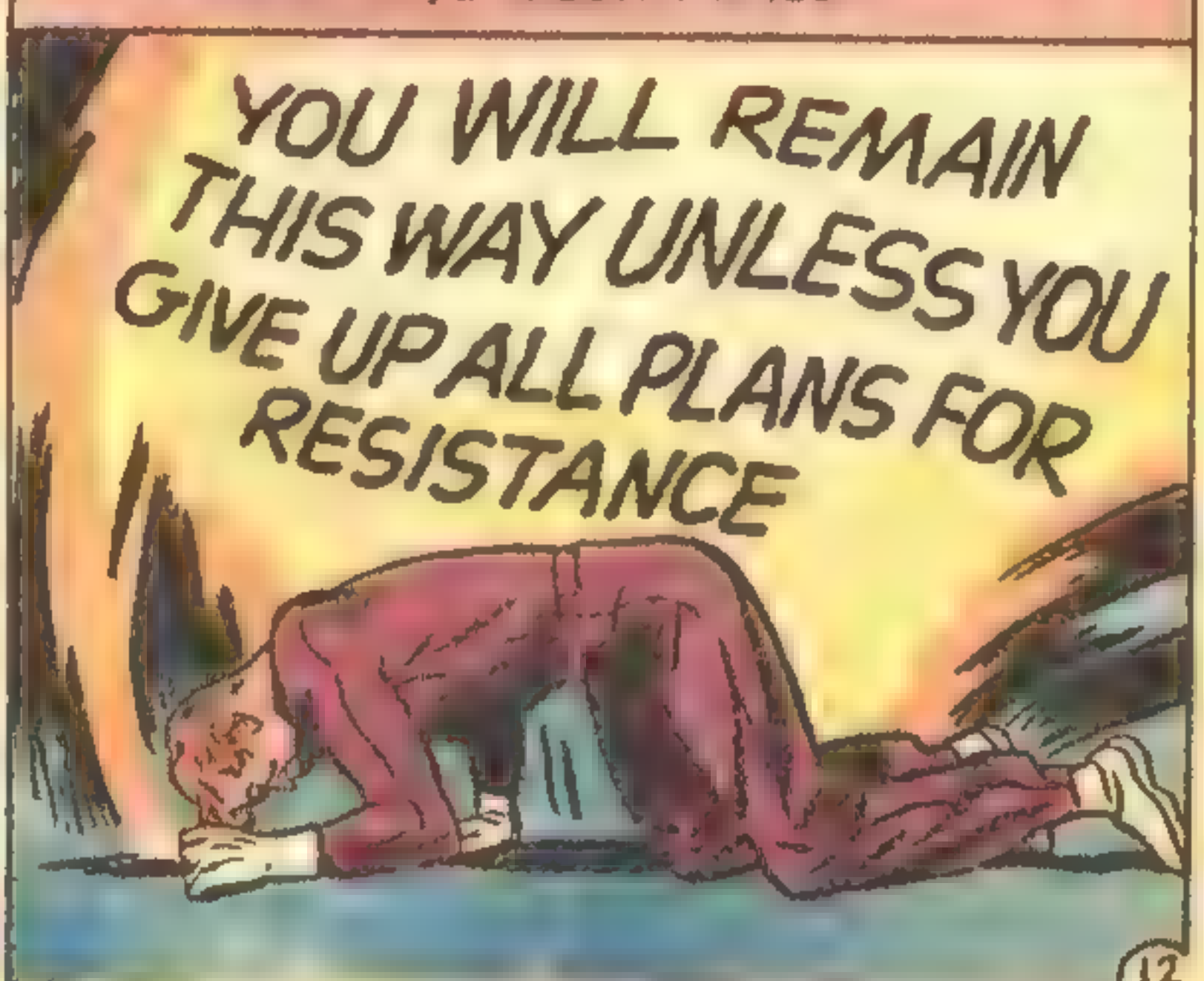
YOU MUST BE **FLOYD BARKER**! TELL ME, HOW DID **ULTIVAC** KNOW WE WERE HIDING ABOARD THAT JETCOPTER?

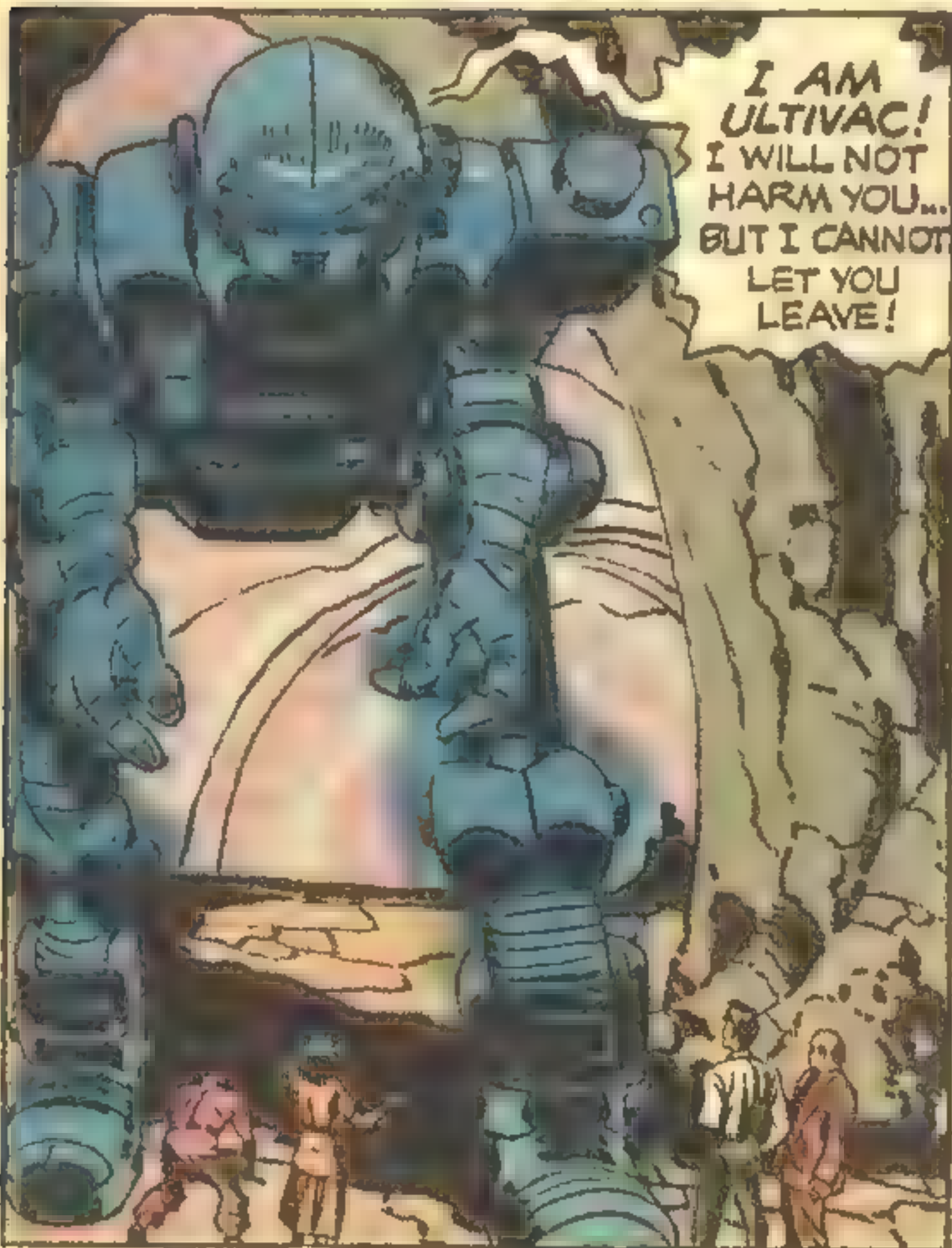


SUDDENLY, RED IS STARTLED BY A VOICE THAT BOOMS INSIDE HIS MIND!

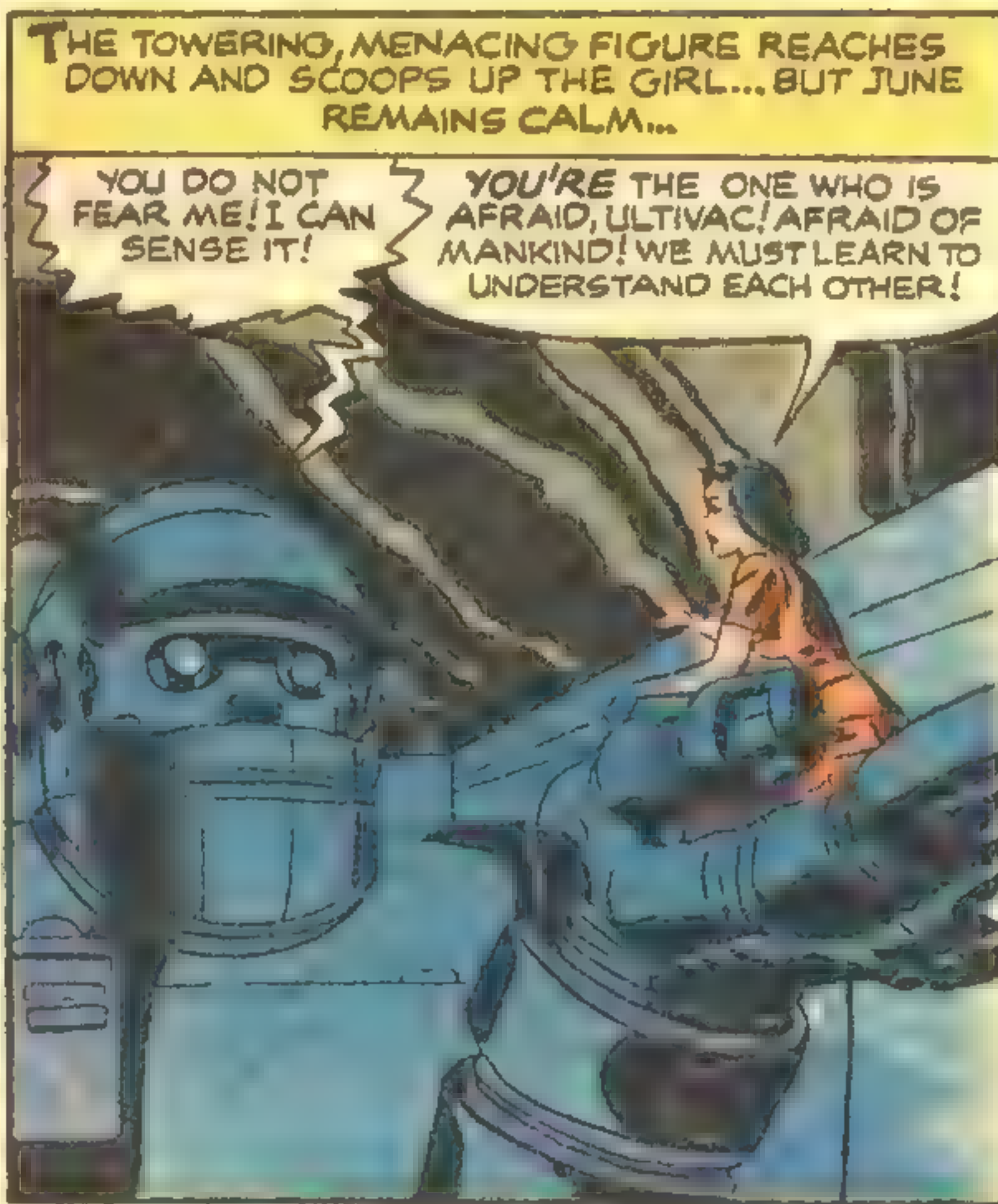


THEN, RED IS STAMPED TO THE FLOOR BY A POWERFUL, UNSEEN FORCE!





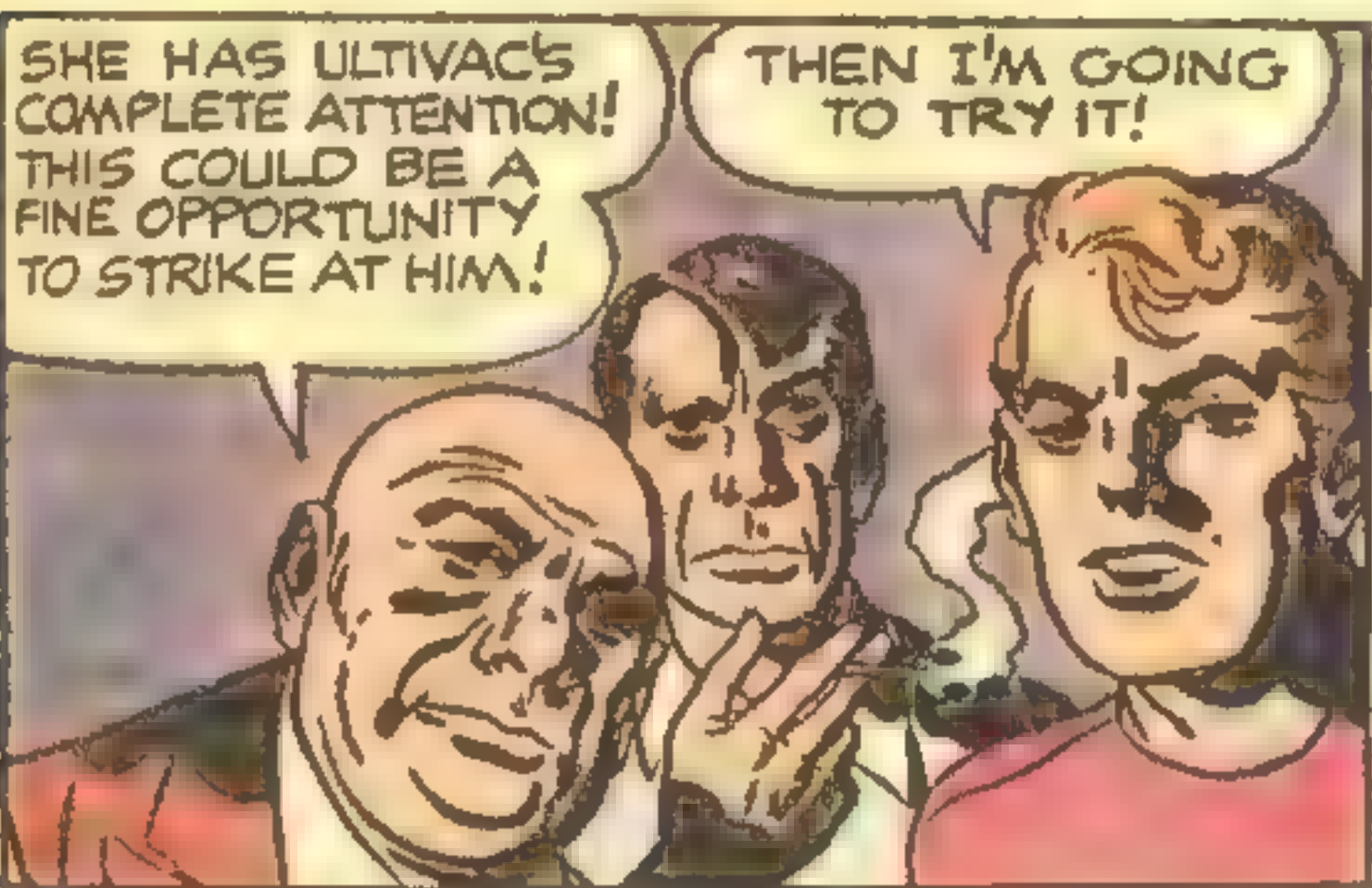
I AM ULTIVAC! I WILL NOT HARM YOU... BUT I CANNOT LET YOU LEAVE!



THE TOWERING, MENACING FIGURE REACHES DOWN AND SCOOPS UP THE GIRL... BUT JUNE REMAINS CALM...

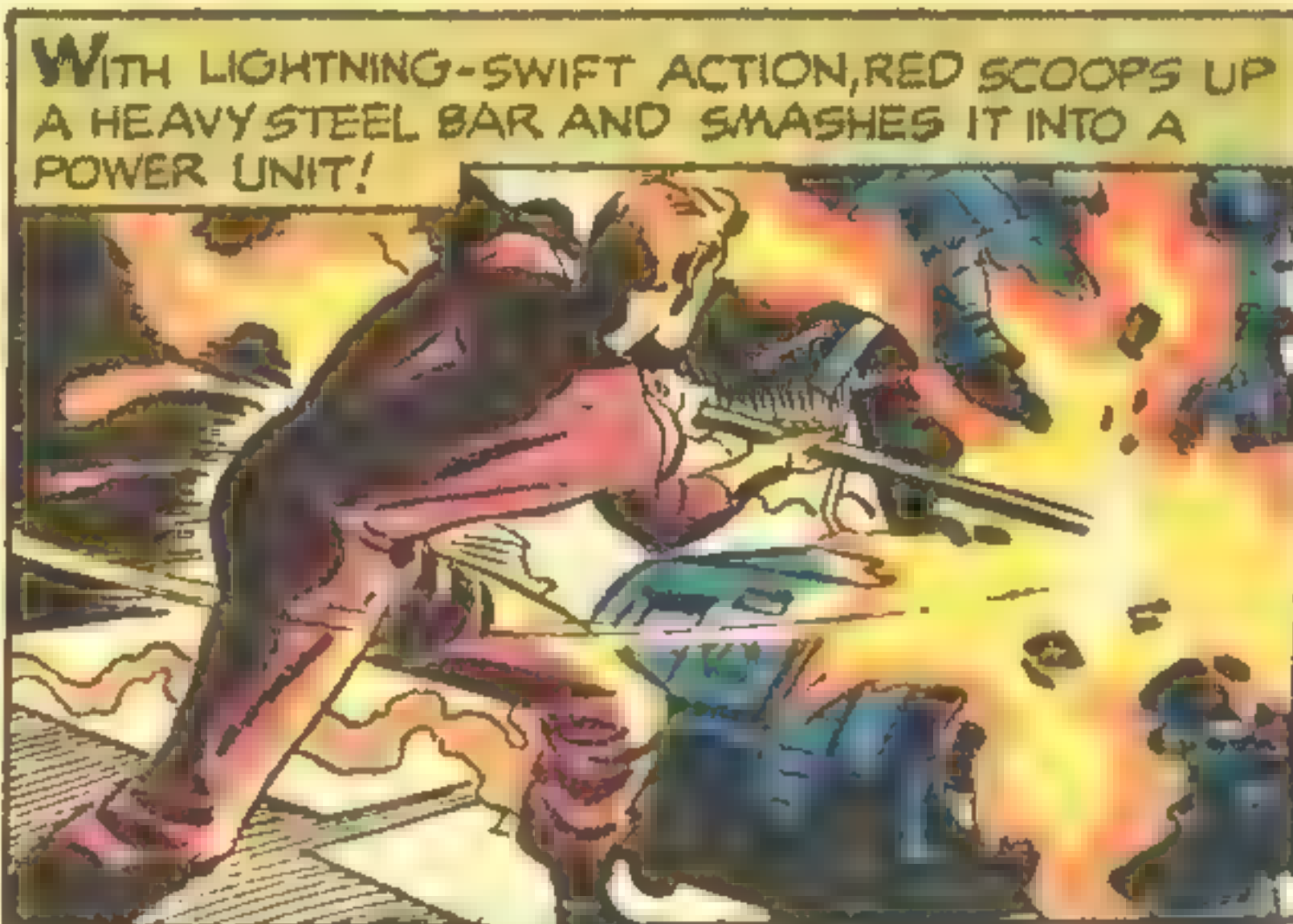
YOU DO NOT FEAR ME! I CAN SENSE IT!

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO IS AFRAID, ULTIVAC! AFRAID OF MANKIND! WE MUST LEARN TO UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER!



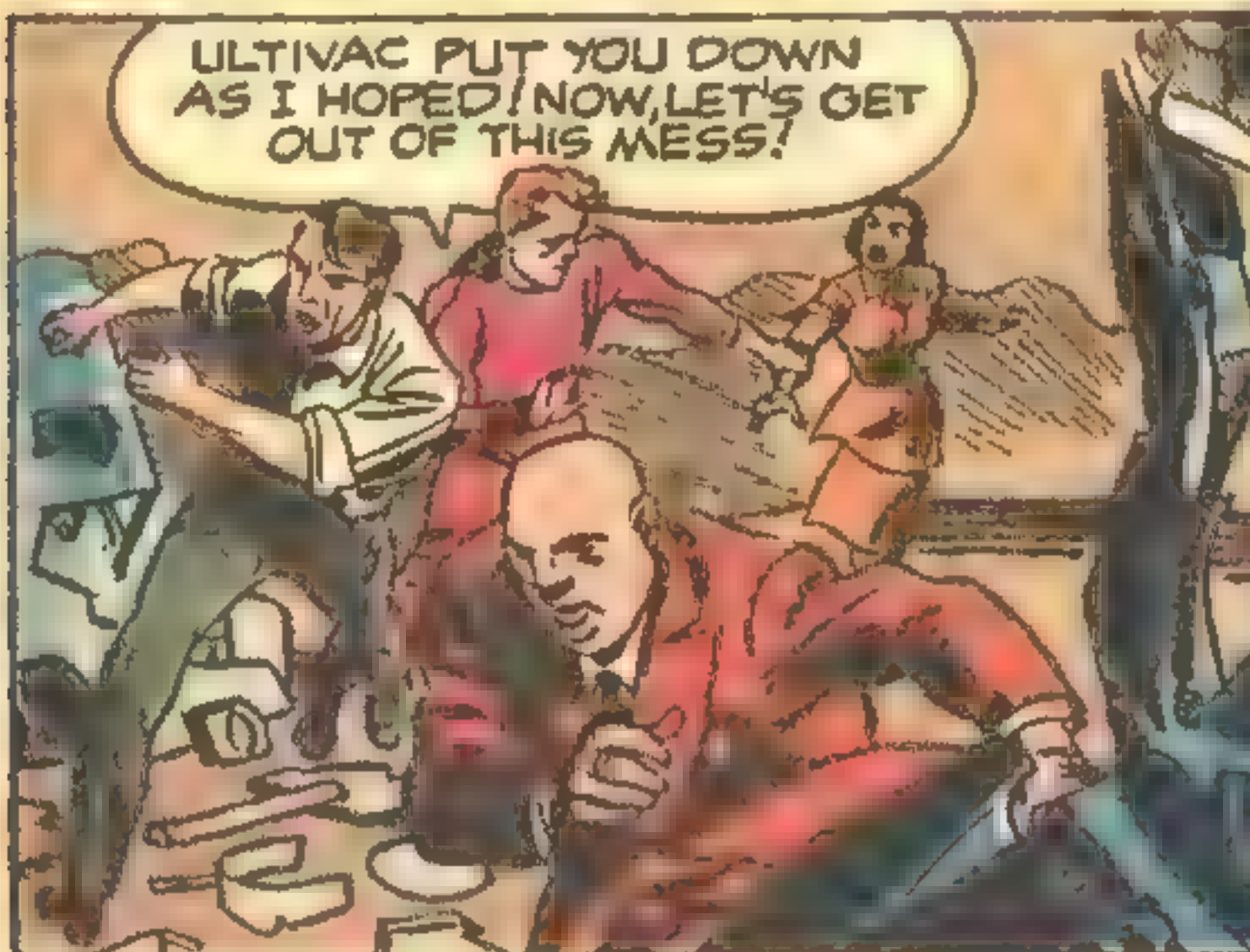
SHE HAS ULTIVAC'S COMPLETE ATTENTION! THIS COULD BE A FINE OPPORTUNITY TO STRIKE AT HIM!

THEN I'M GOING TO TRY IT!

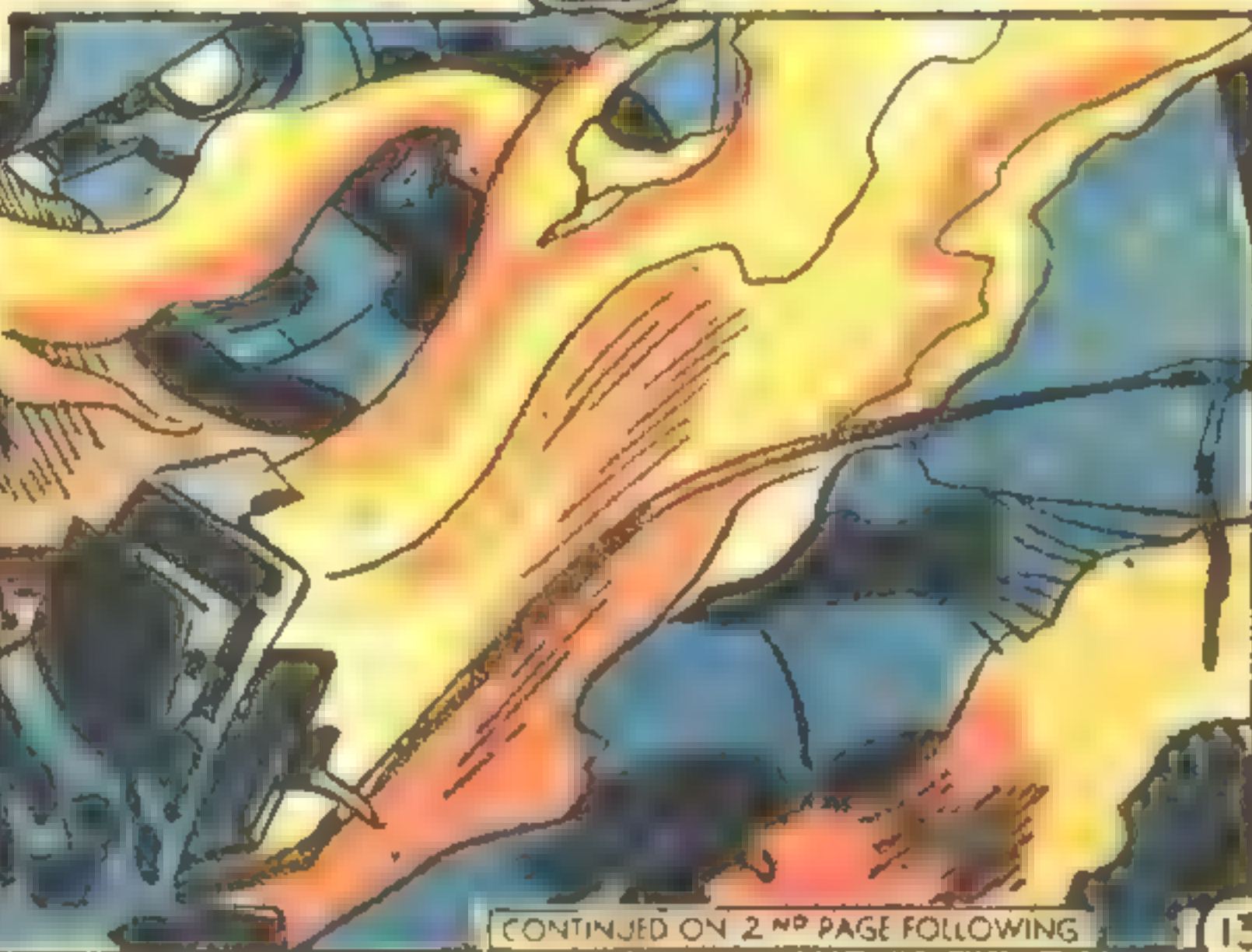


WITH LIGHTNING-SWIFT ACTION, RED SCOOPS UP A HEAVY STEEL BAR AND SMASHES IT INTO A POWER UNIT!

GREAT GOUTS OF FLAME SHOOT FROM EXPLODING EQUIPMENT, AND ULTIVAC IS MOMENTARILY CONFUSED!



ULTIVAC PUT YOU DOWN AS I HOPED! NOW, LET'S GET OUT OF THIS MESS!



LET'S CHAT WITH THE CHALLS

Address all mail to:
CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN
National Periodicals
909 Third Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022

B-651



EDITOR'S NOTE: Some time ago, readers kept up a constant clamor to reprint the early adventures of the Challengers of the Unknown which had escaped their attention. Ever ready to comply with the slightest request, we had no alternative but to accede when we were overwhelmed by a barrage of mail, beseeching us to dig deep into their perilous past.

What would be more suitable, we considered under the circumstances, than to recall their very first team-up—the strange origin of this fearless foursome that lived on borrowed time? That had occurred in Showcase No. 6, dated January-February 1957, conceived, written and completely drawn by Jack Kirby.

But too much of a good thing, taken in one swallow, can be bad, and so we cannily divided "The Secrets of the Sorcerer's Box" into two segments, each of which appeared in conjunction with a brand-new opus. Thus, we reprinted their daredevilish debut in CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN No. 64 and No. 65.

Obviously, we had a good thing going; obviously, too, we couldn't see the woods for the trees. For despite a renewed campaign on the part of the fans to re-publish some of their early epic-making exploits, we resisted those appeals in favor of offering stories that chronicled their latest adventures.

For a long time, we weighed the advantages and disadvantages of undertaking such a project, then concluded with an earth-shattering decision. If readers approved a reprint in two parts, they should acclaim an established classic complete in a single issue!

And so we come to the sensational story in this issue, "Ultivac Is Loose," similarly prepared by Jack Kirby. That burst to life in Showcase No. 7, March-April, 1957. If the Challengers—Ace, Prof, Red, and Rocky—began to make comics mag history in those years, we can only abide by the old adage that today history is repeating itself!

• • •

Dear Editor:

I notice that you ask for readers' experiences, which entitle them to belong to the Legion of Death Cheaters, whose charter members were our Challs. When my cousin was born, he had no heartbeat, but his heart ultimately began to function. Recently, he was the victim of an auto accident. The ambulance doc-

tor, unable to discern a heartbeat, pronounced him dead until a spectator claimed he'd seen him move. So my cousin was rushed to the hospital instead of the morgue. He had cheated death twice!

When I was very young, my father tells me, I playfully opened the door and was tumbling out of our moving car when someone from inside grabbed me and yanked me back in. If that person hadn't snatched me, I'd have been surely killed by one of the fast-moving cars. So there, you have three cases!

Rick Manugian, West Bridgewater, Mass.

• • •

Dear Editor:

On a rainy April 28, at the age of five, I was severely burned by a fire in our house. After three months in a hospital in Sparta, I was returned home since nothing more could be done for me. One day, I overheard the doctor tell my grandmother and parents that I had three days at the most to live. The next day, arrangements were made to take me to Madison Hospital.

After almost three years in the hospital and more than 40 operations and a lifetime of pain incurred by the burns, I'm still able to work and thank God that He allowed me to cheat death to do what little I can for mankind, and live in the hope that I can do some good before I die.

Bud Cavadini, Cashton, Wis.

And here are two more instances of a brush with death:

"Twice, I was severely cut, and almost bled to death," confesses Robert Conner of Oklahoma City, Okla. "before I got proper medical attention. Another time, I was walking down the street when a car jumped the curb and dragged me 150 feet until it smashed into a store window."

From James Medlin of LaMesa, Tex., comes this report:

"I believe I'm also qualified to become a member. I was riding my bicycle, equipped with high handlebars, when I was struck by an automobile. If it weren't for those handlebars, I surely would have gone under the car and probably would have been crushed. If those handlebars hadn't caught onto the front fender, I wouldn't be here to write this."

CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

CHAPTER
THREE

IT IS HESSE
AND BARKER WHO
ENTER THE PICTURE
NOW. AND THEIR GREED
BECOMES AN INSTRUMENT
WHICH SPREADS PANIC IN
THE CANYONS OF A BIG CITY!

The
**FEARFUL
MILLIONS**

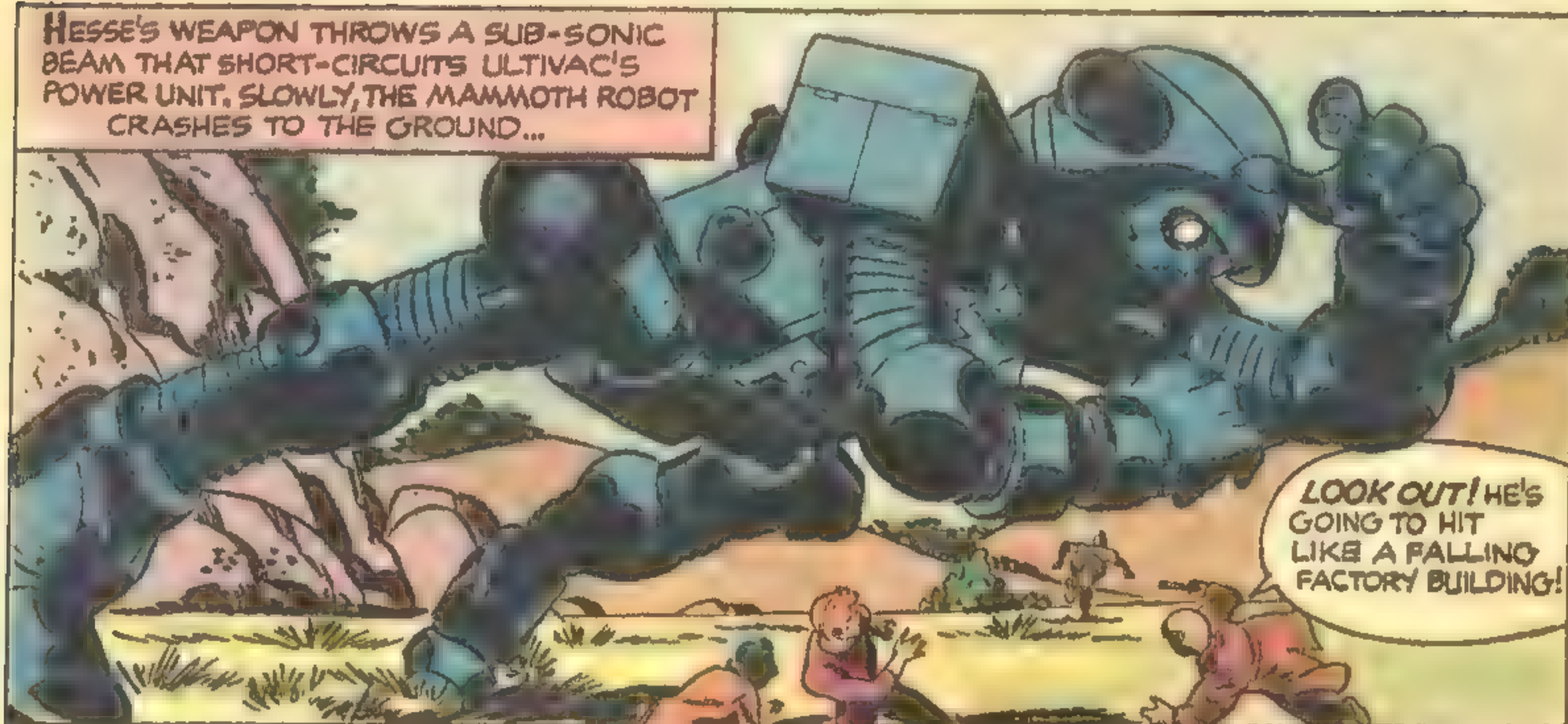
ULTIVAC'S PRISONERS MAKE GOOD THEIR
ESCAPE! BUT EVEN AS THEY REACH THE OUTSIDE
OF THE GIANT CAVERN, THE SOUND OF ULTIVAC
IN PURSUIT IS LOUD IN THEIR EARS!

HE'S SO CONFUSED,
HE'S NOT USING
HIS TELEPATHIC
POWERS!

RUN,
JUNE!
I'LL TRY
TO DELAY
HIM!

DON'T BOTHER! THIS WILL
DO IT! I'VE BEEN WAITING
FOR A MOMENT LIKE THIS,
TO USE IT! ULTIVAC NEVER
SUSPECTED I WAS
MAKING THIS WEAPON!

HESSE'S WEAPON THROWS A SUB-SONIC BEAM THAT SHORT-CIRCUITS ULTIVAC'S POWER UNIT. SLOWLY, THE MAMMOTH ROBOT CRASHES TO THE GROUND...



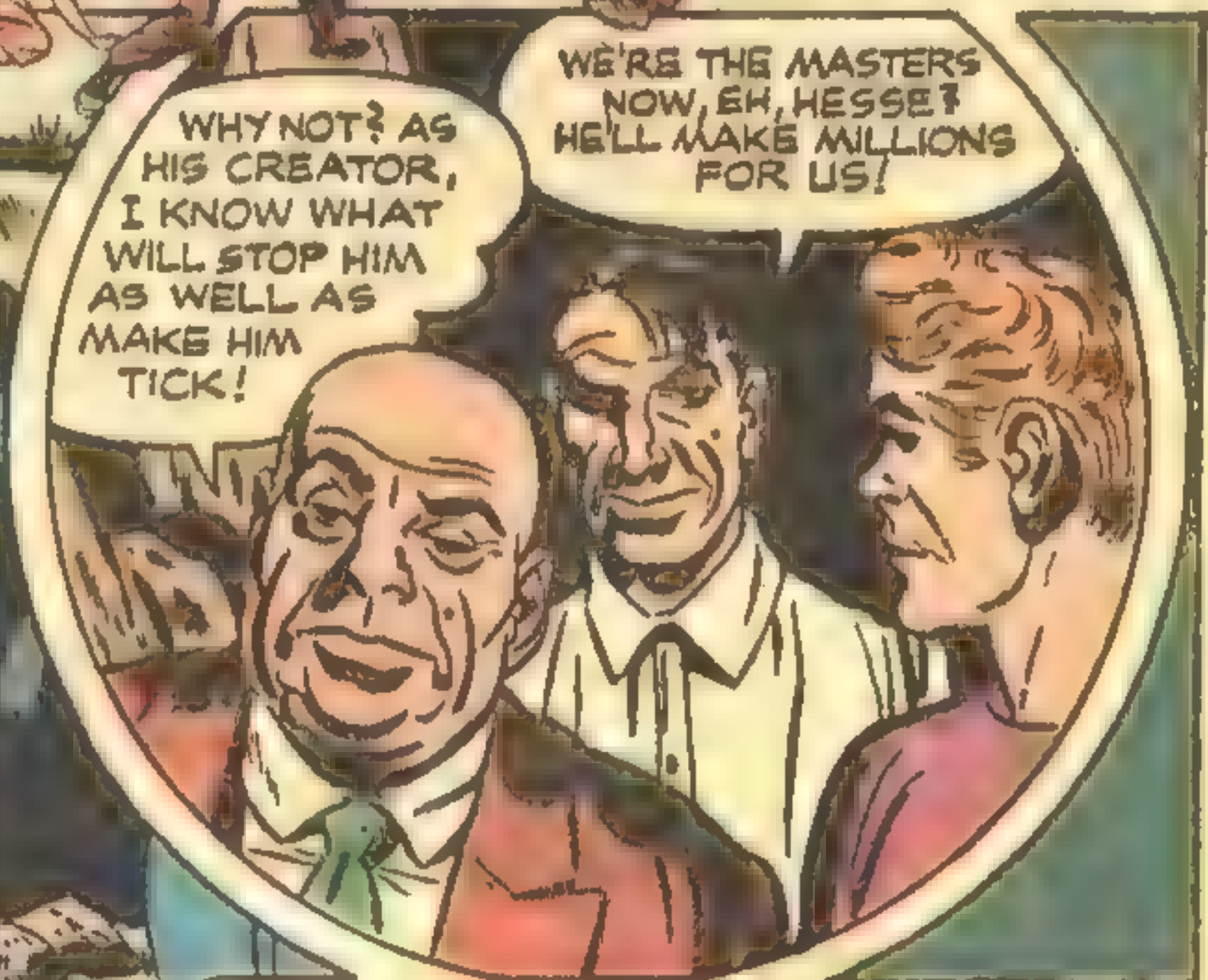
LOOK OUT! HE'S GOING TO HIT LIKE A FALLING FACTORY BUILDING!

THAT GADGET YOU MADE SURE DID THE TRICK, HESSE!



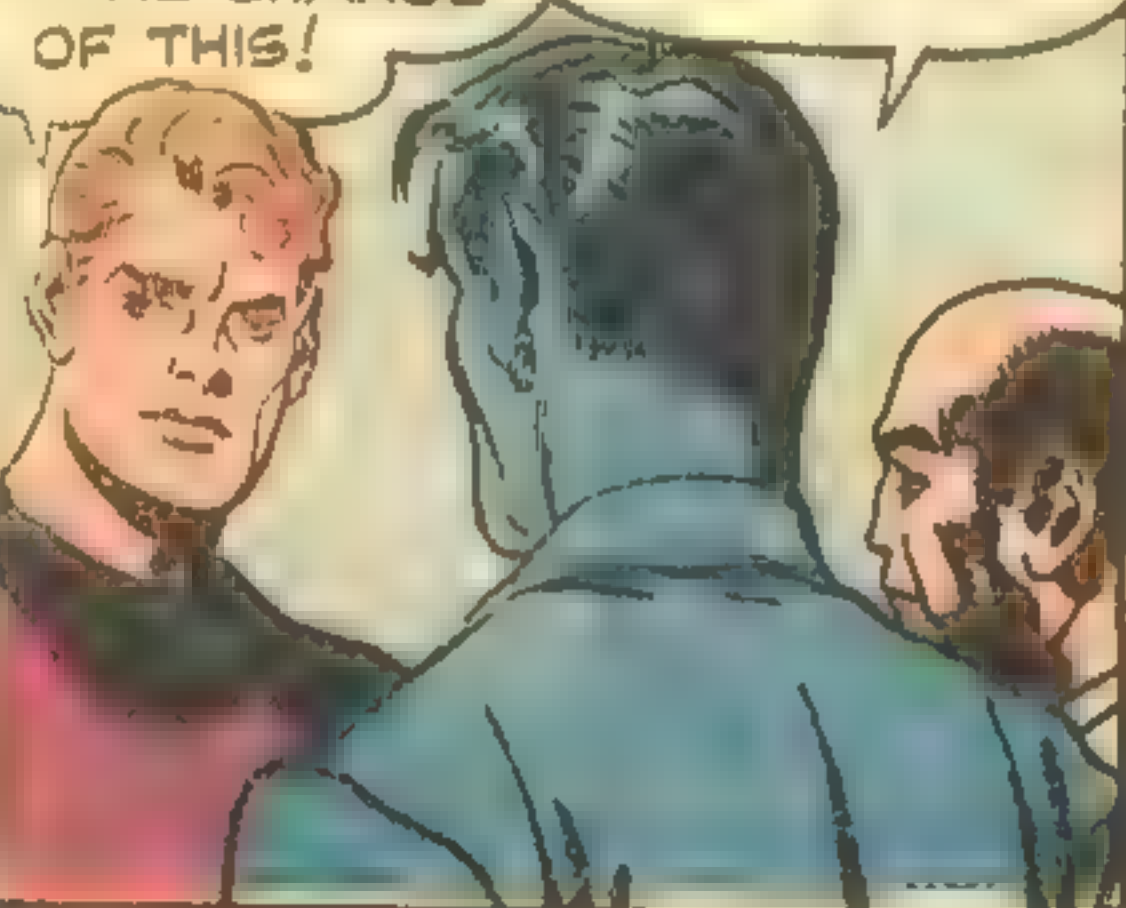
WHY NOT? AS HIS CREATOR, I KNOW WHAT WILL STOP HIM AS WELL AS MAKE HIM TICK!

WE'RE THE MASTERS NOW, EH, HESSE? HE'LL MAKE MILLIONS FOR US!



WAIT A MINUTE, YOU TWO!--THE GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES WILL TAKE CHARGE OF THIS!

TAKE CHARGE OF OUR PROPERTY? SINCE WHEN IS THAT CONSTITUTIONAL?



BUT ULTIVAC IS NOT A SIDE-SHOW FREAK! HE CAN MAKE A GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO SCIENCE!

OKAY! IF YOU SCIENTISTS WANT TO STUDY HIM, YOU CAN JOIN THE PAYING CUSTOMERS! JUST BUY A TICKET!



YEAH! YOU COME TO THE SHOW! COME TO SEE ULTIVAC, THE SENSATION OF THE AGE! TWO TONS OF STEEL... THAT THINKS AND TALKS LIKE A MAN!



THERE COULD BE ONLY ONE PLACE WHERE HESSE AND BARKER COULD DISPLAY THEIR WONDROUS CREATION... A PLACE LIKE THE YANKEE STADIUM, IN NEW YORK! A FEW WEEKS LATER, AMID THE BALLYHOO OF WILD PROMOTION... ULTIVAC IS SHOWN TO THE PUBLIC!

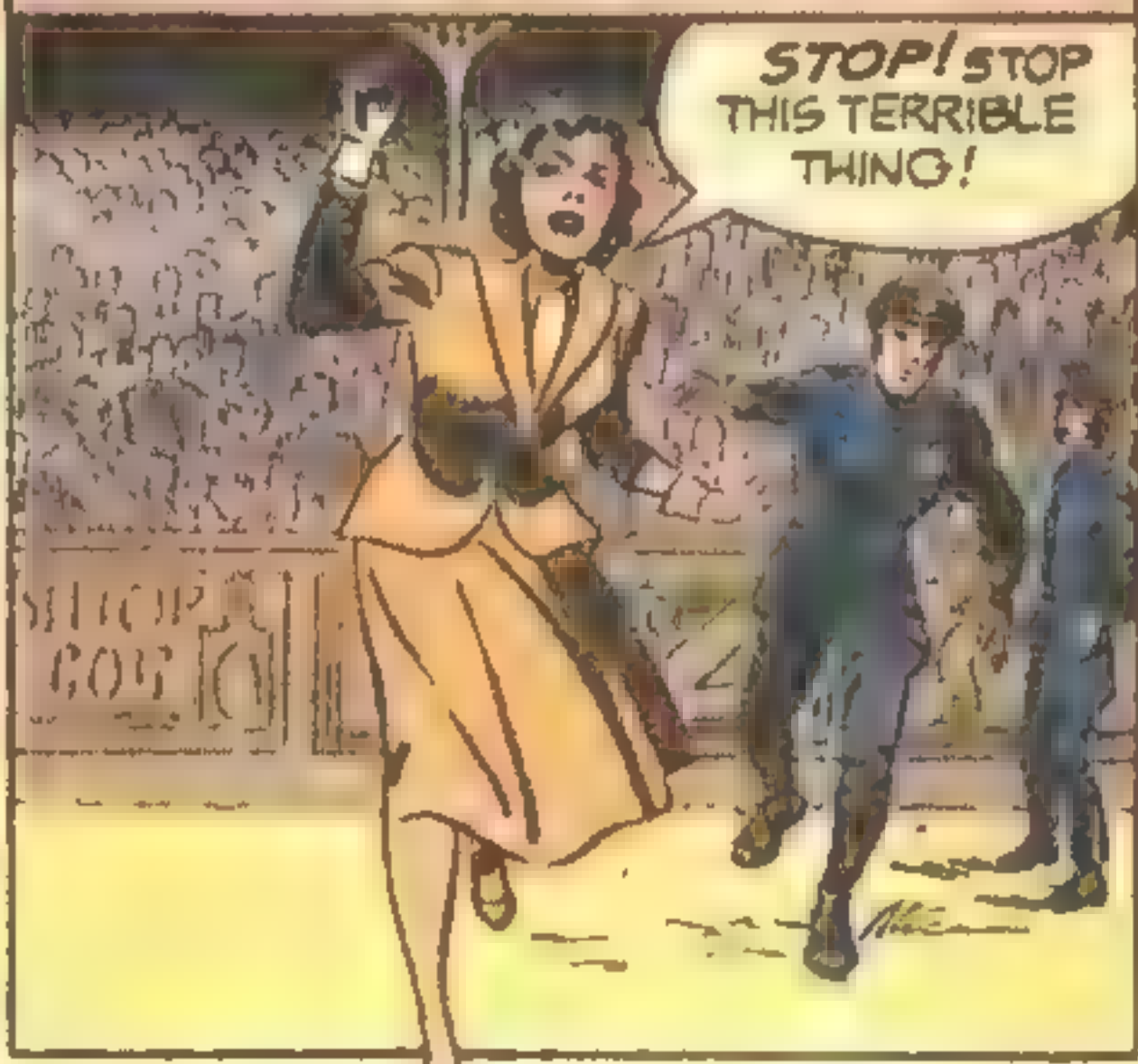


HERE HE IS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN!

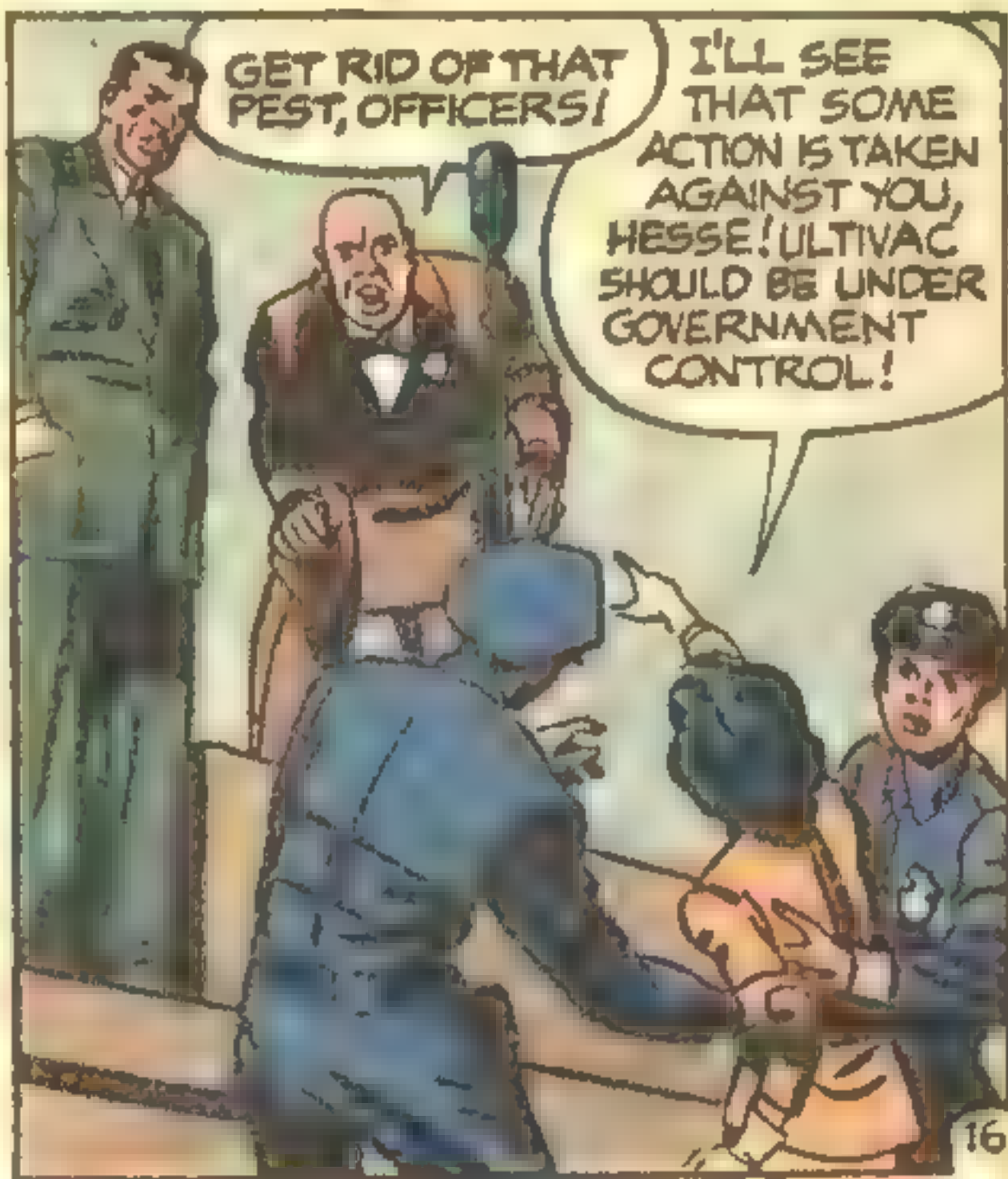
BUT ULTIVAC'S INVISIBLE THOUGHT BEAMS ARE LANCING INTO THE CROWD... PROBING... CALLING...



A GIRL DETACHES HERSELF FROM THE CROWD AND RACES ACROSS THE FIELD!



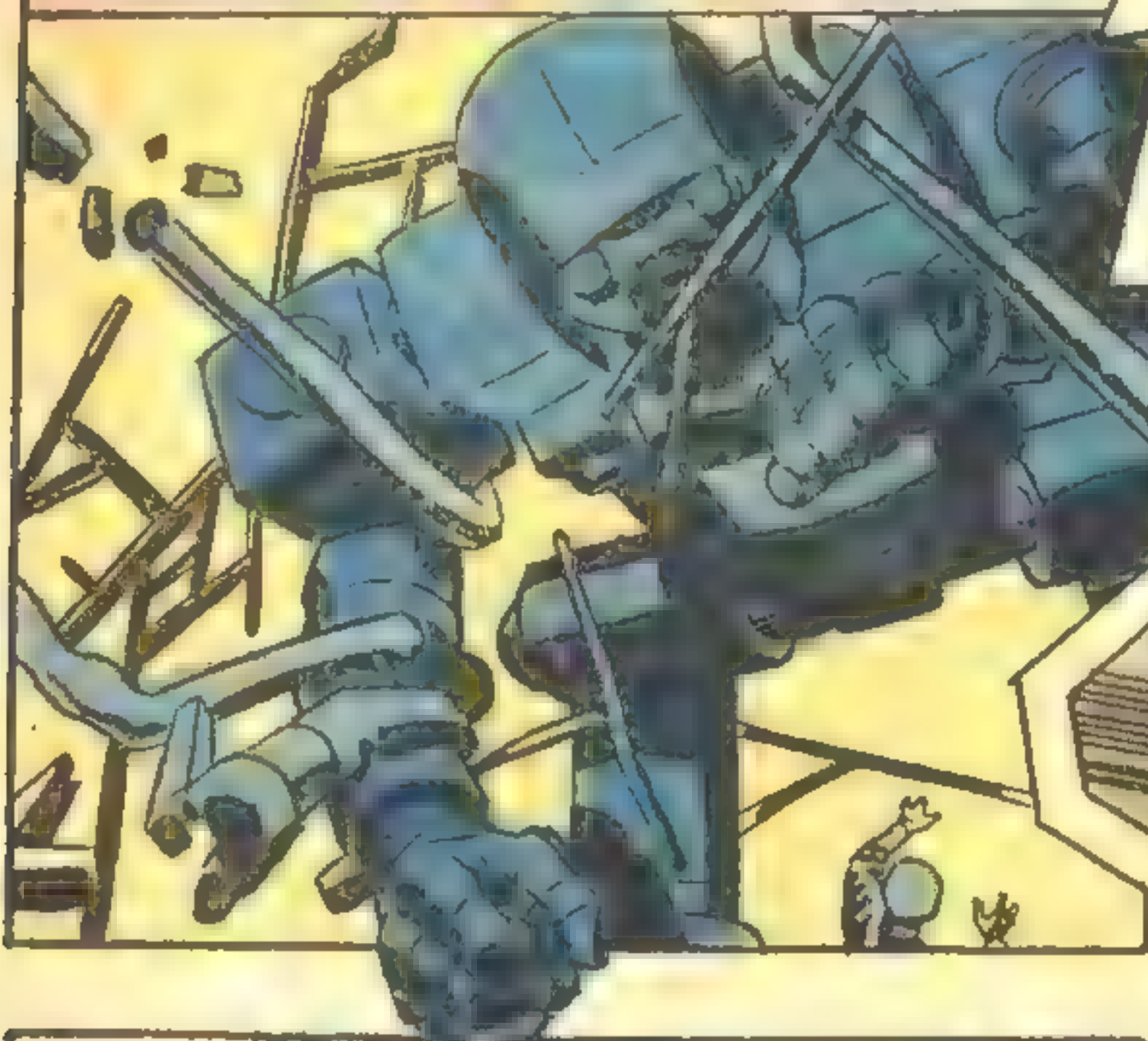
STOP! STOP THIS TERRIBLE THING!



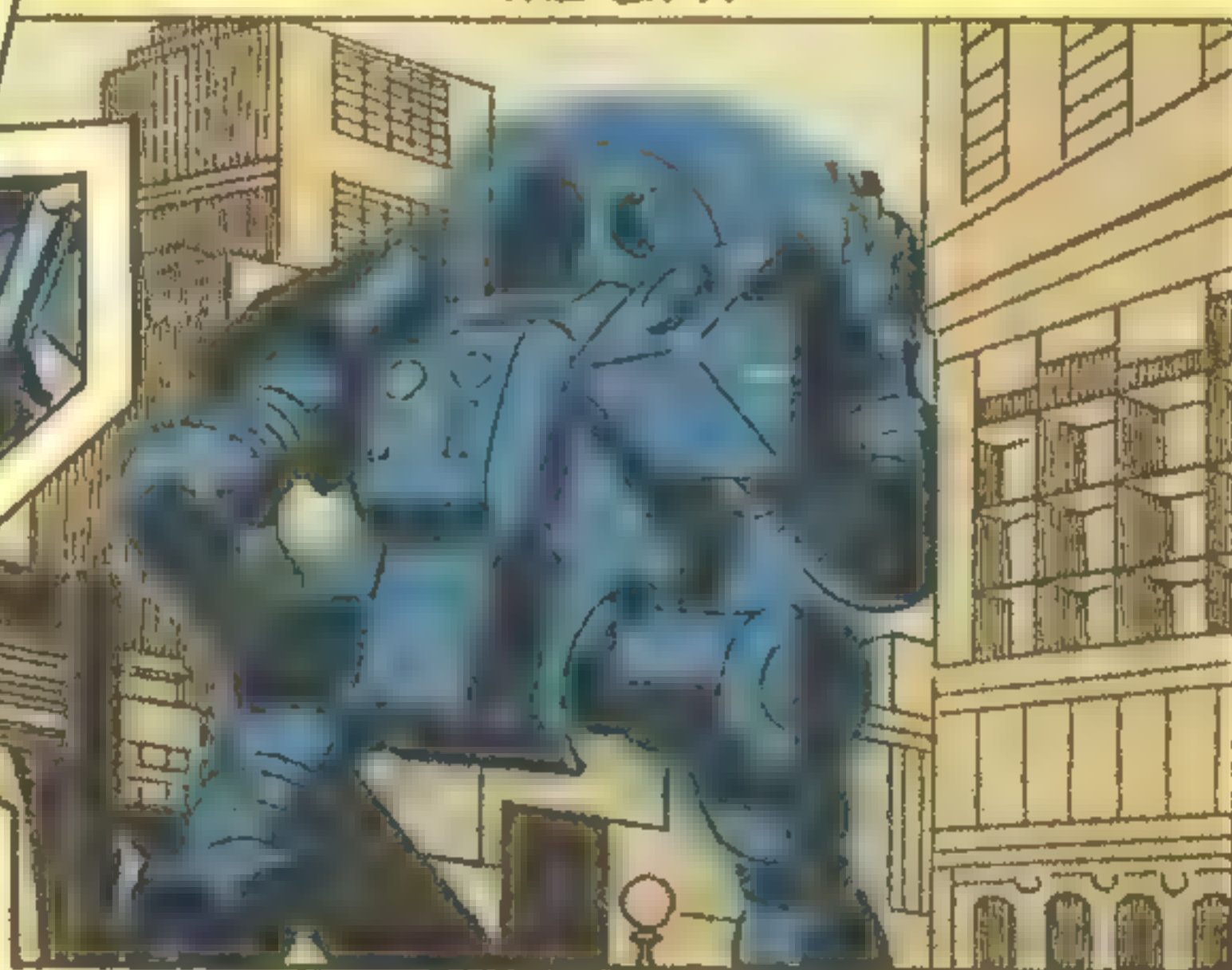
GET RID OF THAT PEST, OFFICERS!

I'LL SEE THAT SOME ACTION IS TAKEN AGAINST YOU, HESSE! ULTIVAC SHOULD BE UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTROL!

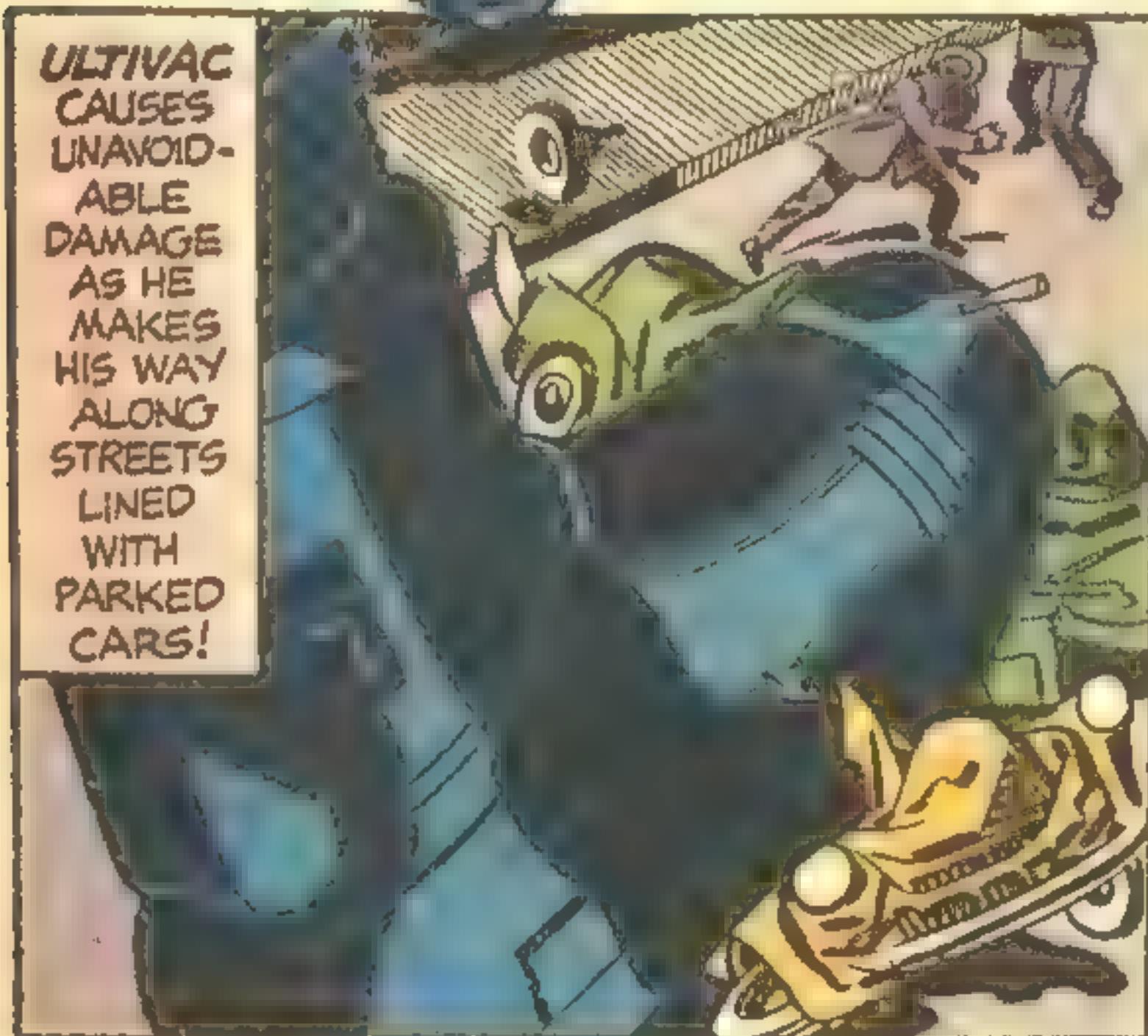
THEN ULTIVAC MAKES HIS MOVE!



HE SNAPS HIS BONDS LIKE MATCHSTICKS! SWIFTLY SCOOPING UP JUNE ROBBINS IN HIS GIANT HAND, ULTIVAC MAKES HIS WAY ACROSS THE CITY!



ULTIVAC CAUSES UNAVOIDABLE DAMAGE AS HE MAKES HIS WAY ALONG STREETS LINED WITH PARKED CARS!



MEANWHILE, THE LOCAL AIR DEFENSE GROUP SENDS ITS INTERCEPTORS INTO ACTION!

MAYDAY! MAYDAY! PEEL OFF AND ATTACK!



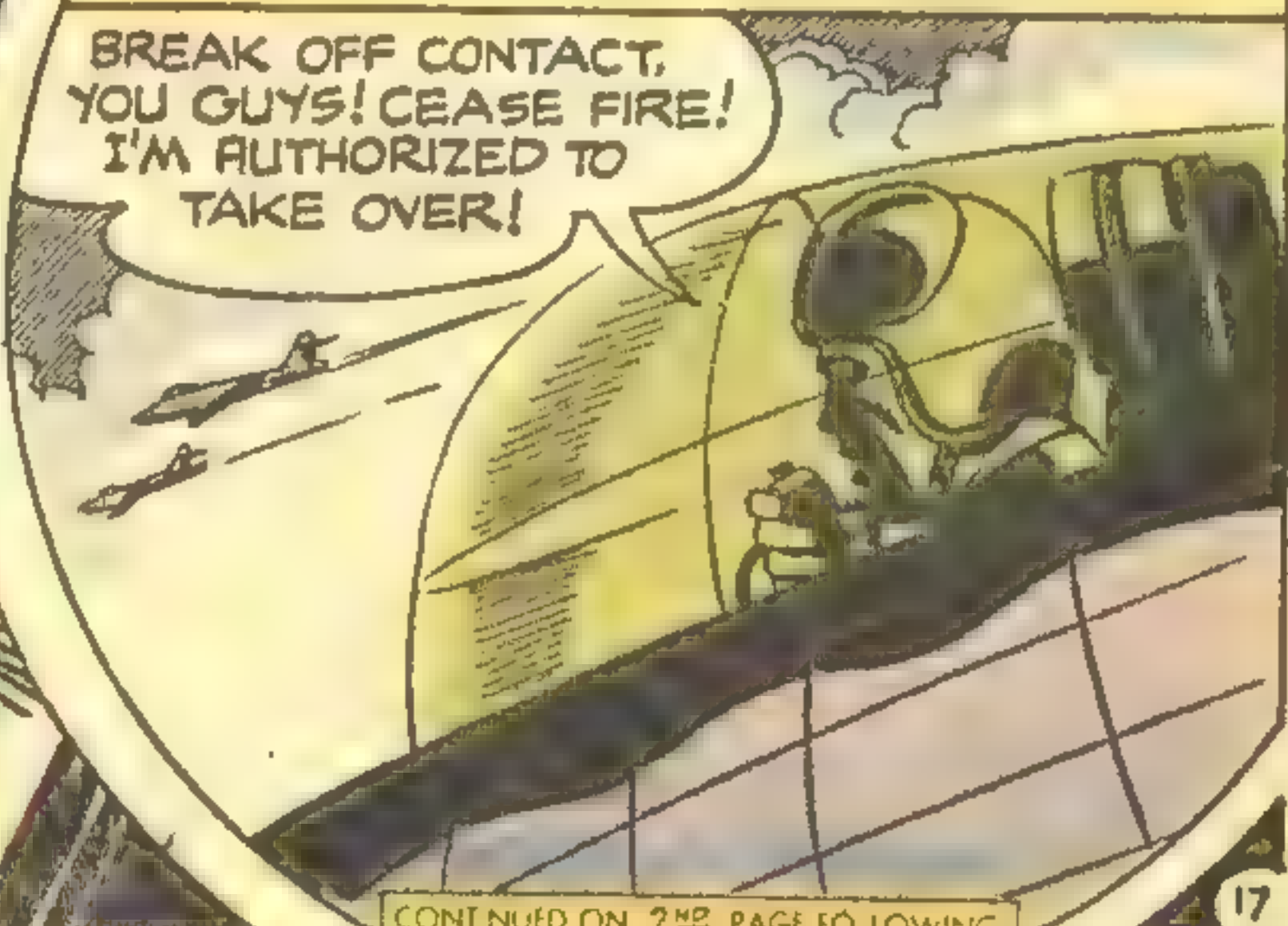
ULTIVAC! PLANES!!

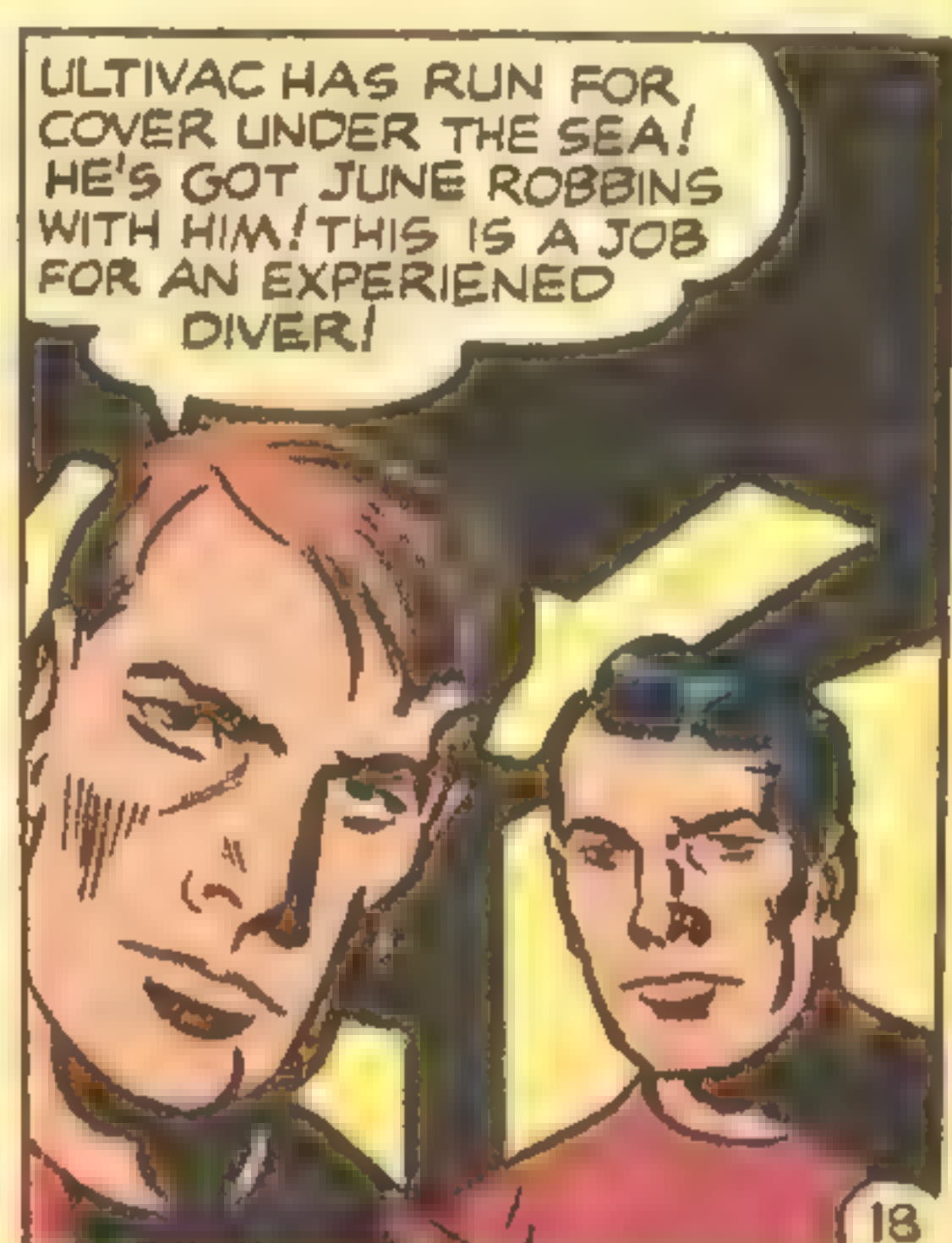
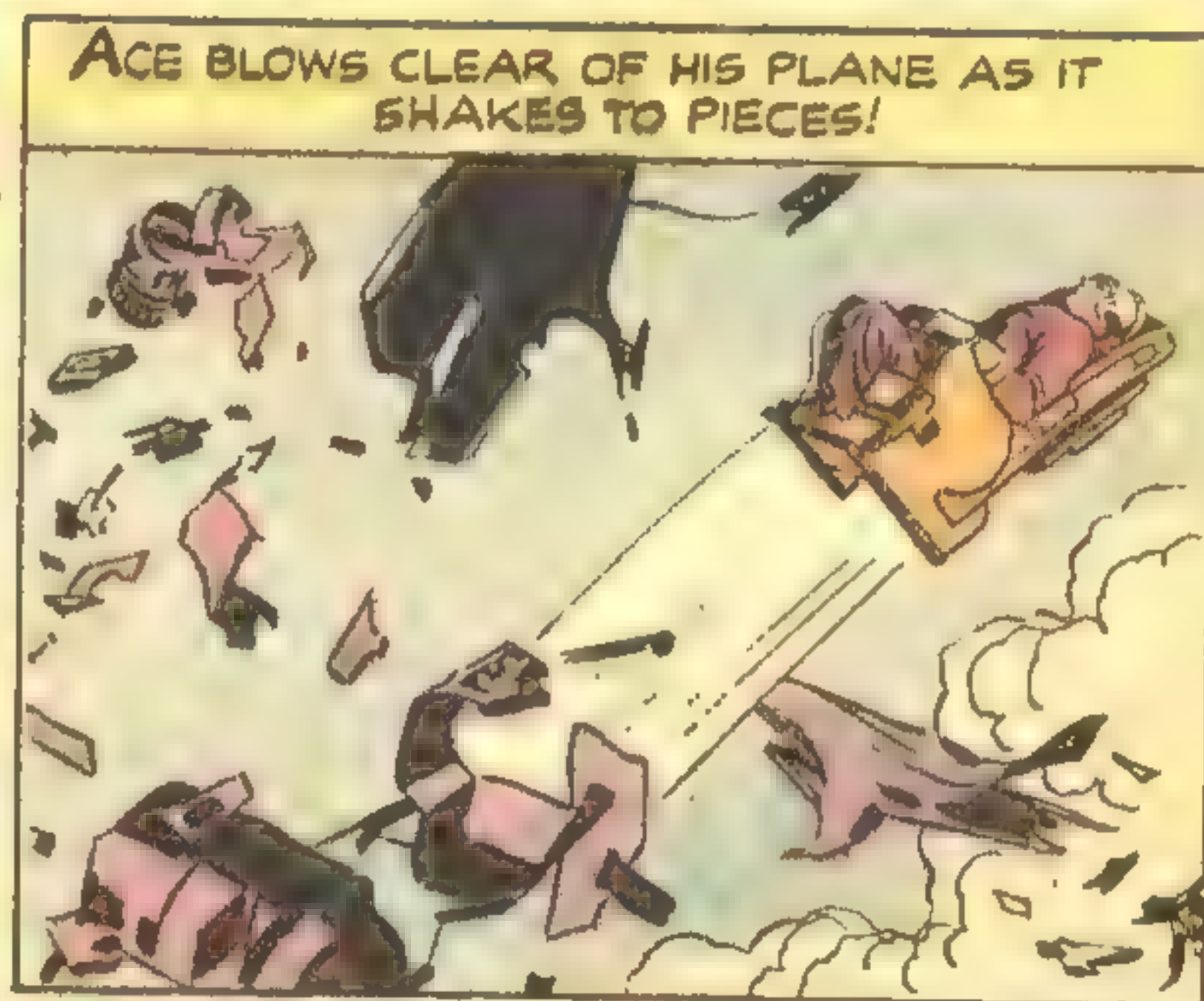
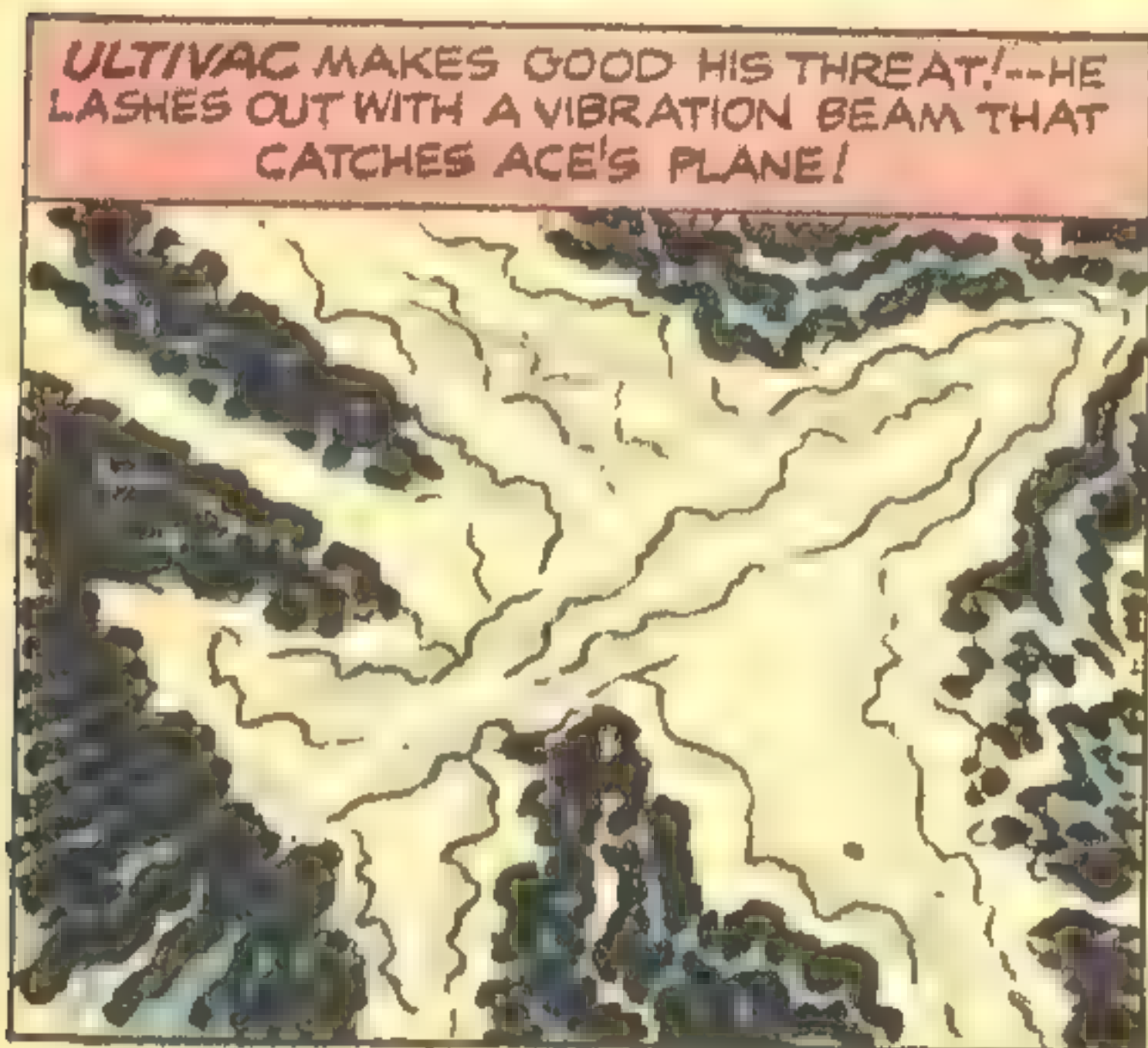
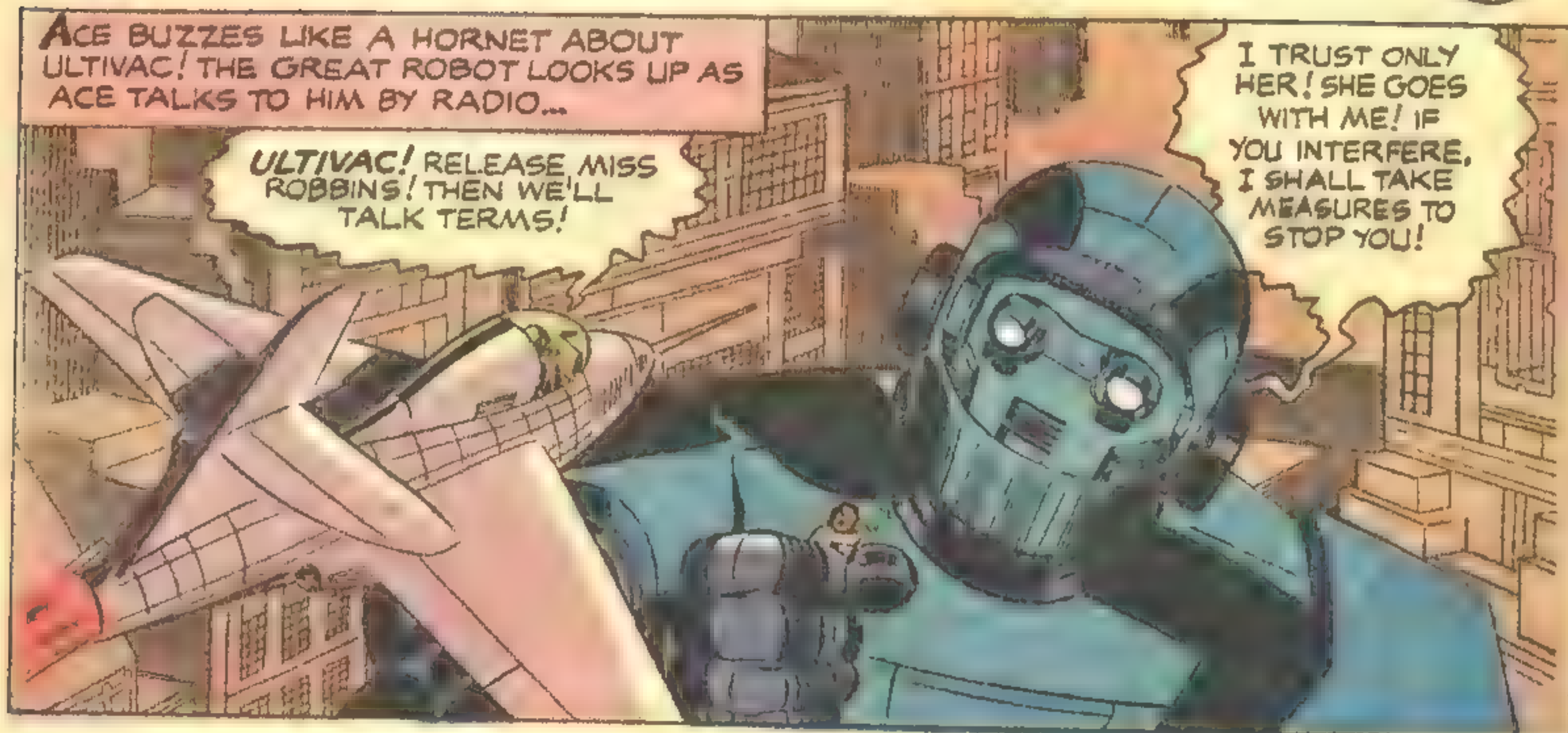
UNAWARE THAT JUNE IS WITH ULTIVAC, THE PLANES SUBJECT THE ROBOT TO A MURDEROUS FIRE! HE TRIES TO SHIELD JUNE FROM IT...



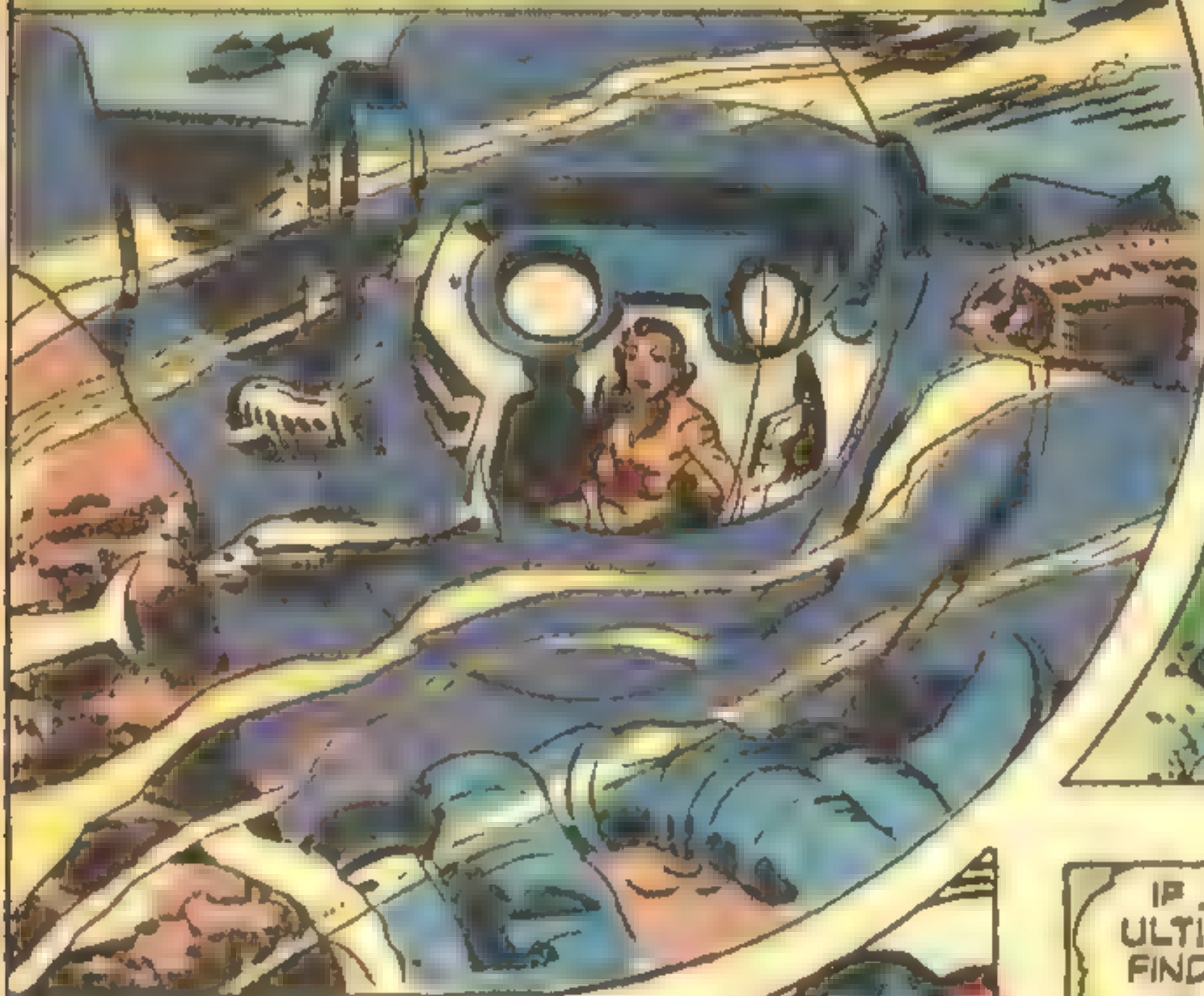
SUDDENLY, A PLANE WINGS IN FROM THE DIRECTION OF WASHINGTON, D.C. --- AT THE CONTROLS IS A CHALLENGER OF THE UNKNOWN...ACE MORGAN!

BREAK OFF CONTACT, YOU GUYS! CEASE FIRE! I'M AUTHORIZED TO TAKE OVER!





MEANWHILE, ULTIVAC HAS TAKEN REFUGE BENEATH THE WATERS OF THE ATLANTIC COAST. HIS FACE SHIELD IS CLOSED, AND TUCKED SAFELY BEHIND ITS WATER-TIGHT PLASTI-GLASS IS JUNE ROBBINS!



UNDER THE CONTINENTAL SHELF SUBMERGED IN THE WATERS OF THE AMERICAN SHORE, HE FINDS ANOTHER MAMMOTH CAVERN!

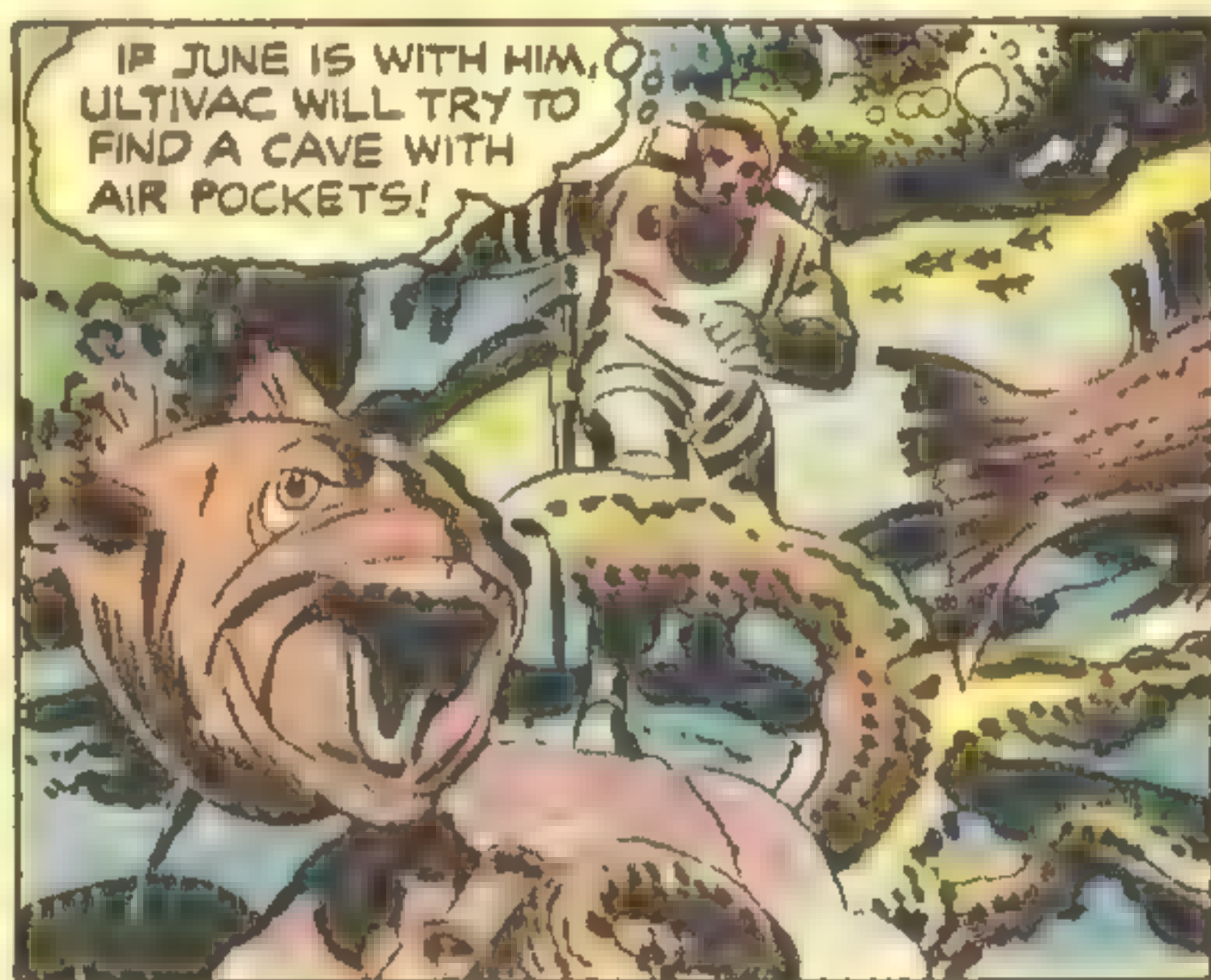


BUT HIS PURSUERS ARE SOON ON HIS TRAIL!--PROF IS LOWERED INTO THE OCEAN IN A DIVING SUIT DESIGNED FOR MAXIMUM SUBMERSION!

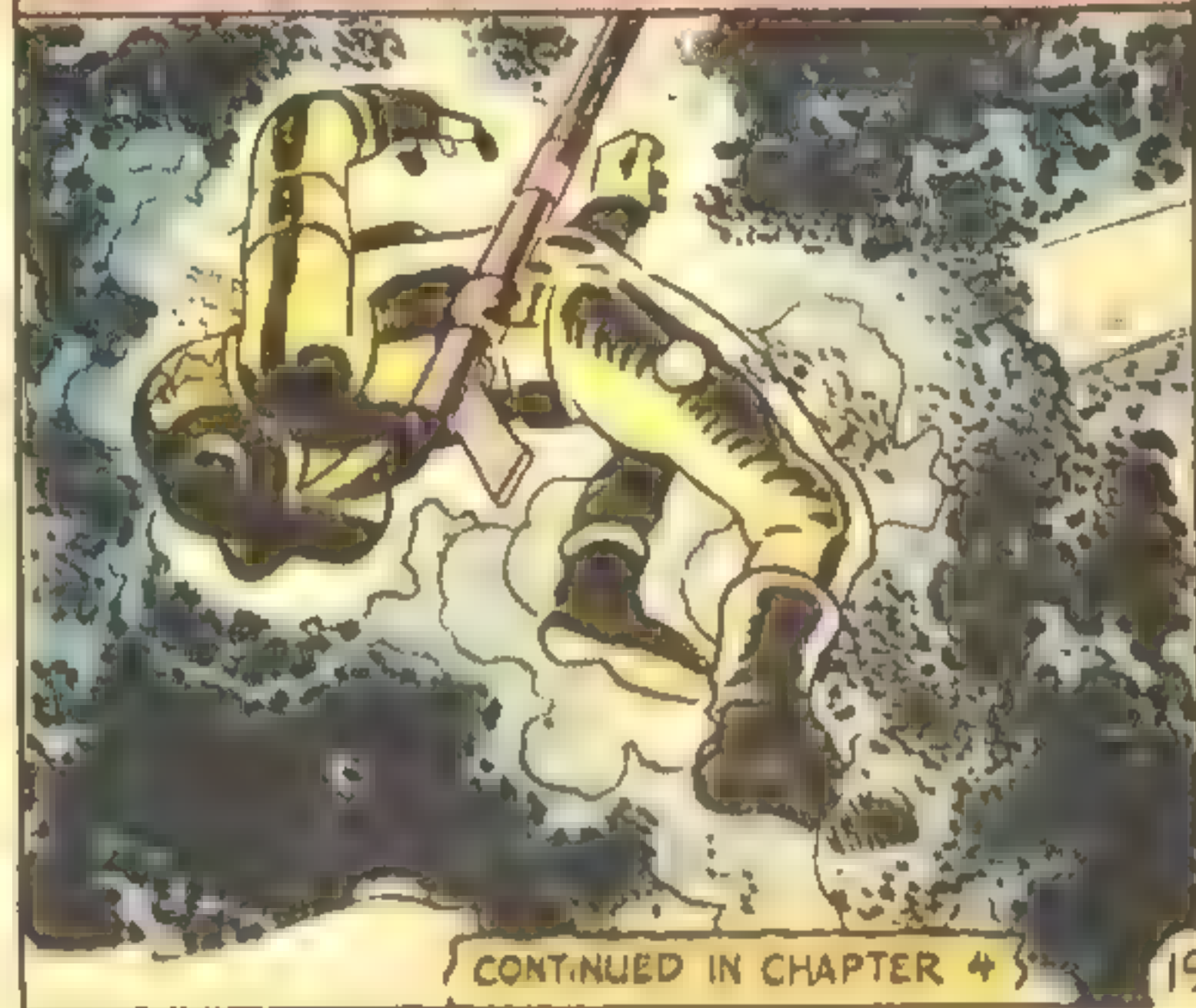
BE CAREFUL, PROF!



IF JUNE IS WITH HIM, ULTIVAC WILL TRY TO FIND A CAVE WITH AIR POCKETS!



SUDDENLY, THE WATER BOILS INTO ACTIVITY, AS AN INVISIBLE VIBRO-BEAM SEIZES PROF!



HE'LL WANT TO KEEP JUNE ALIVE! I WONDER IF HE'LL TREAT ME THE SAME WAY?



CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN

THE BATTLE WITH
ULTIVAC RUSHES TO
A BREATH-TAKING
CLIMAX AS ONE
OF THE
CHALLENGERS
TAKES THE MOST
TERRIFYING JOURNEY
ANY MAN CAN
EXPERIENCE!

CHAPTER
FOUR

The FATAL PREDICTION!



JUNE...
YOU'RE SAFE!
I SUPPOSE IT WAS
ULTIVAC WHO
PUT ME OUT OF
COMMISSION!

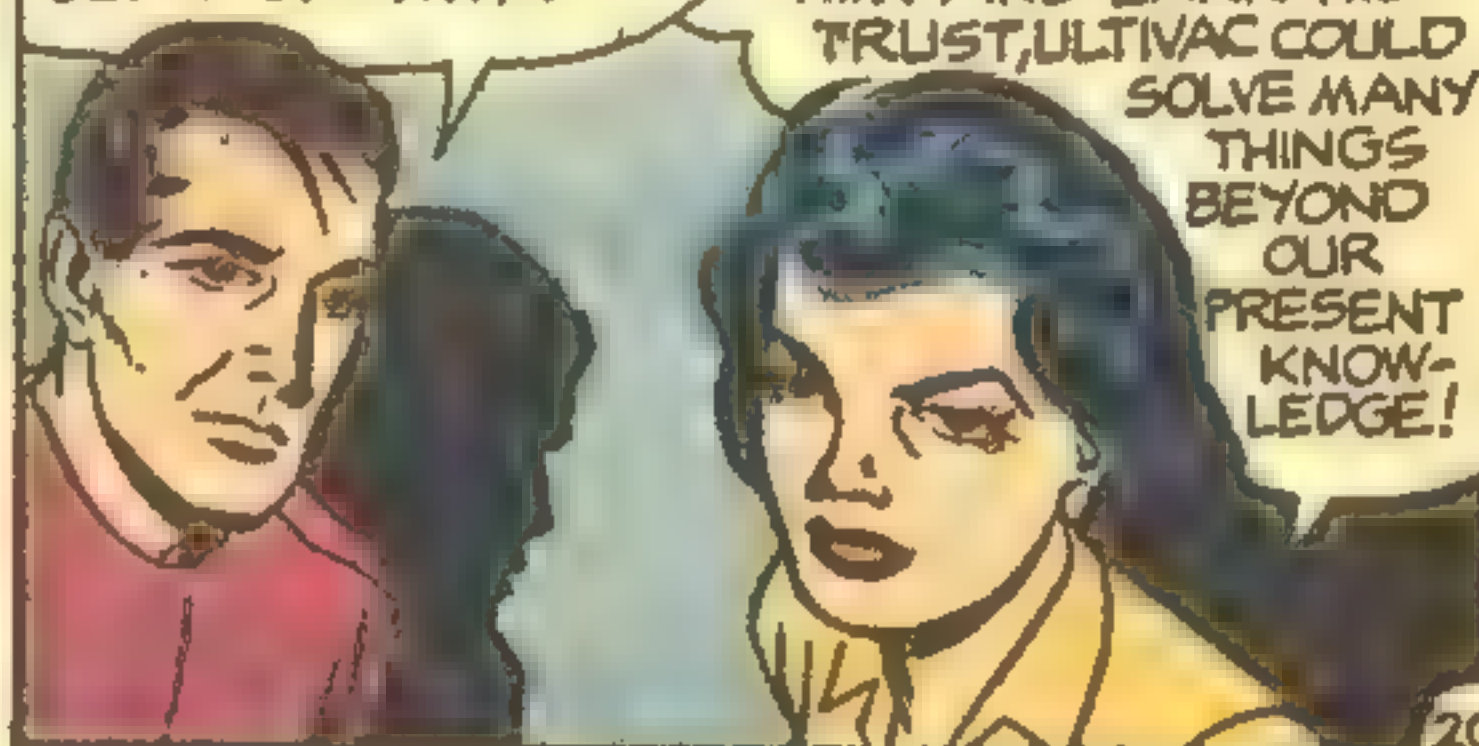
IT WAS A MEASURE
TO PROTECT HIMSELF!
YOU WERE CARRYING
A WEAPON!

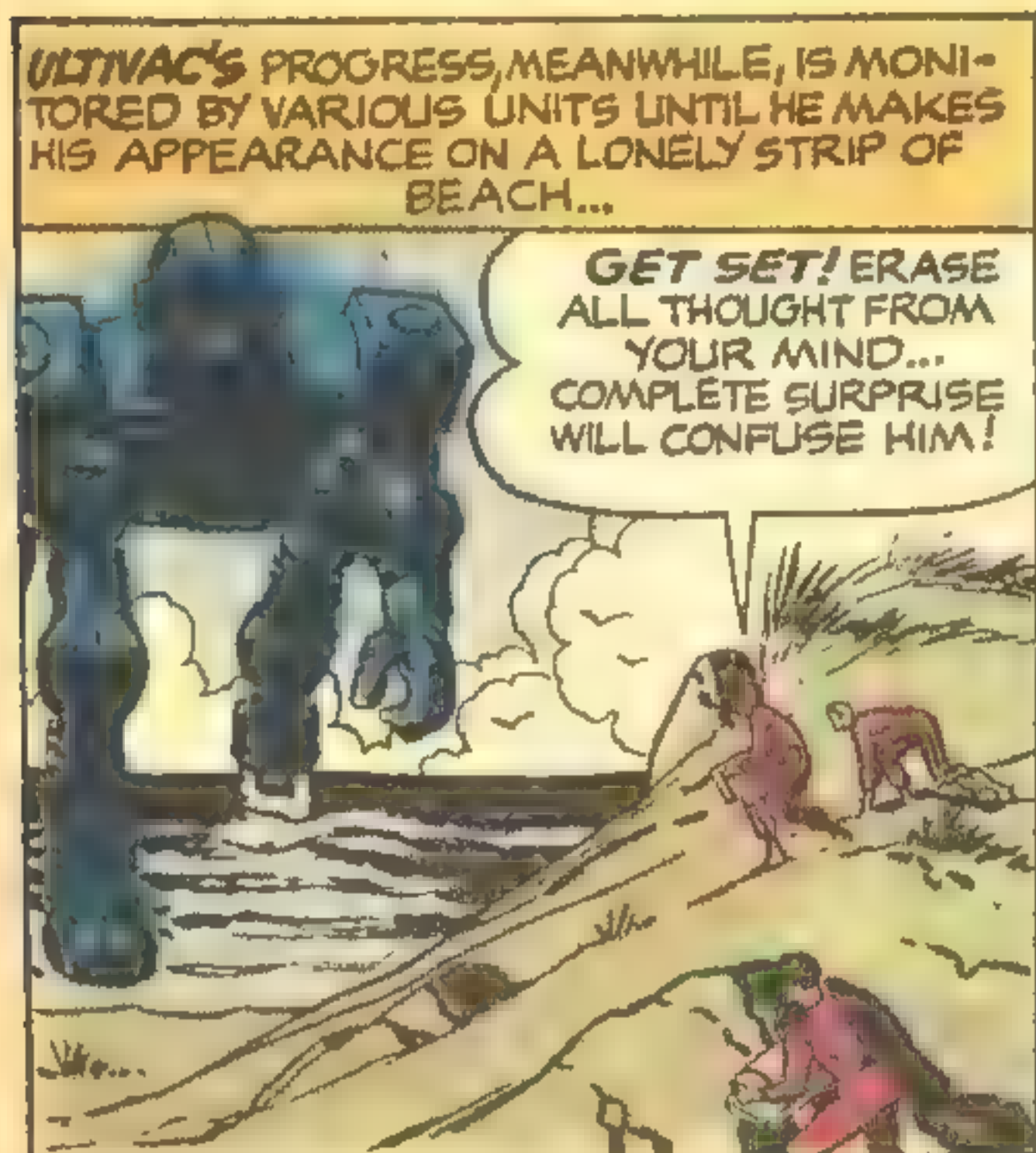
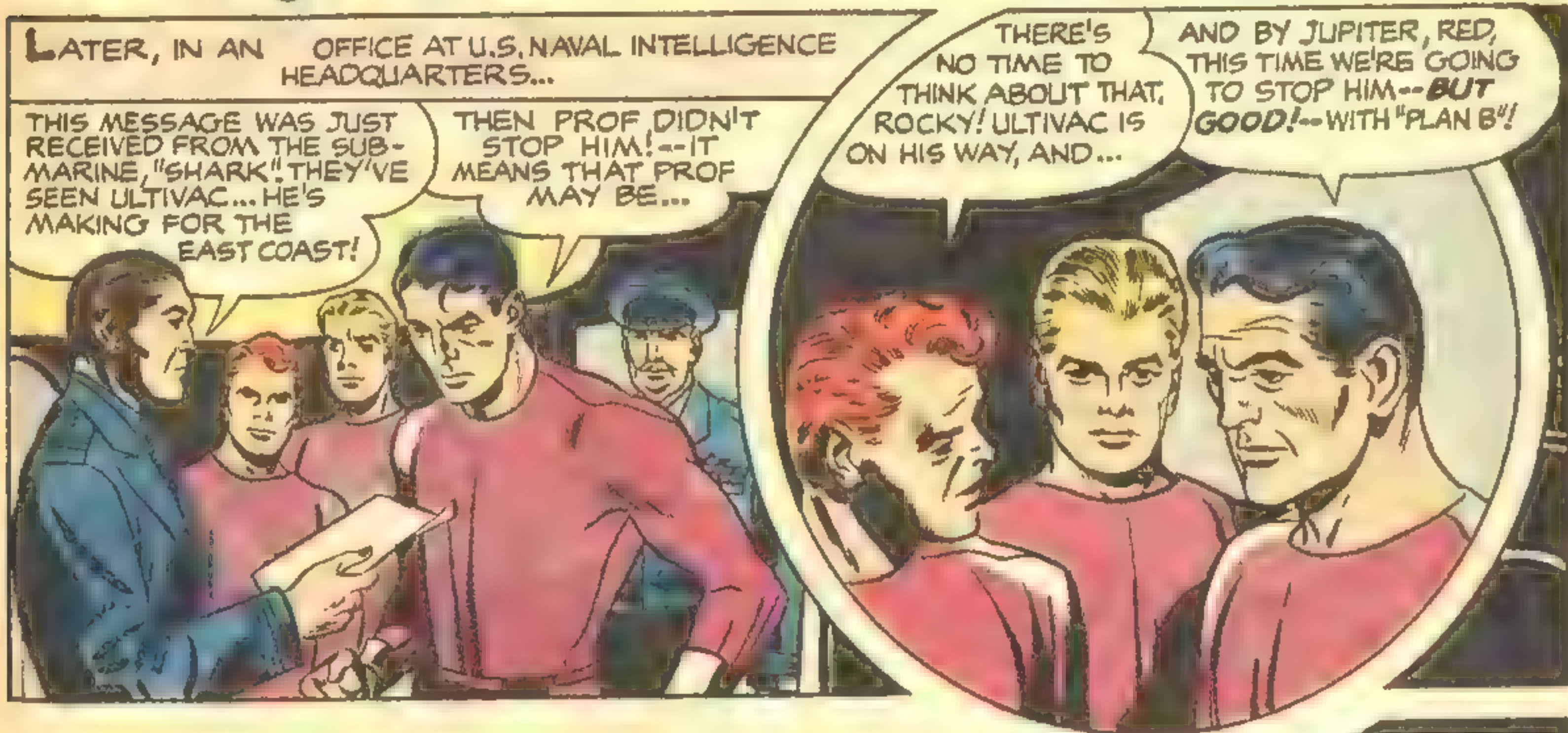
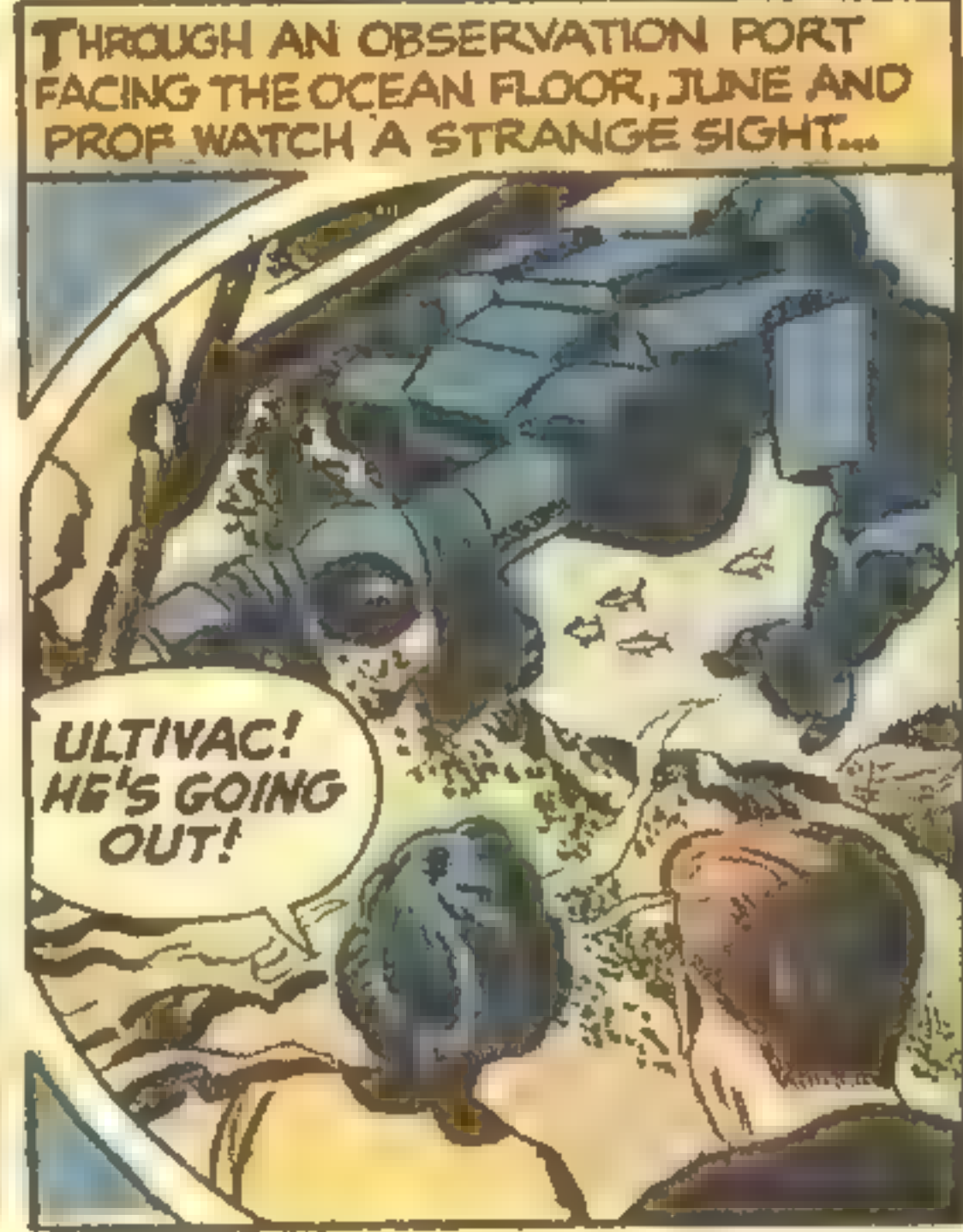
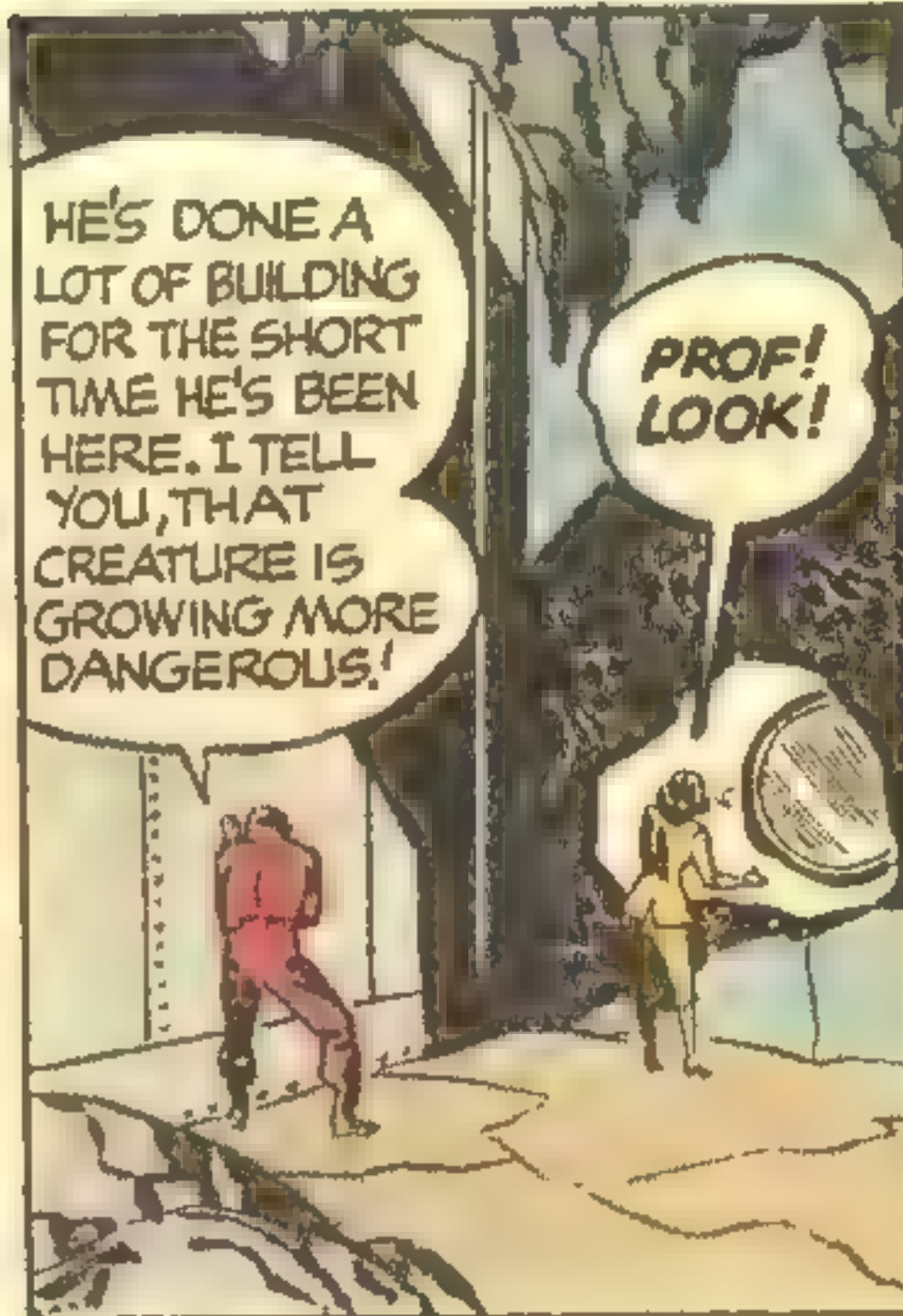


IN A LARGE
UNDERGROUND
CAVERN
SEALED OFF
FROM THE
OCEAN DEPTHS,
PROF
RETURNS TO
CONSCIOUSNESS
...AND SEES
JUNE
ROBBINS!

I WAS GOING
TO USE IT, TOO!
JUNE, YOU SOUND
SYMPATHETIC TOWARD
ULTIVAC!---WHY?

ULTIVAC IS A SCIENTIFIC
MARVEL! IF MANKIND
WOULD STOP FIGHTING
HIM AND EARN HIS
TRUST, ULTIVAC COULD
SOLVE MANY
THINGS
BEYOND
OUR
PRESENT
KNOW-
LEDGE!



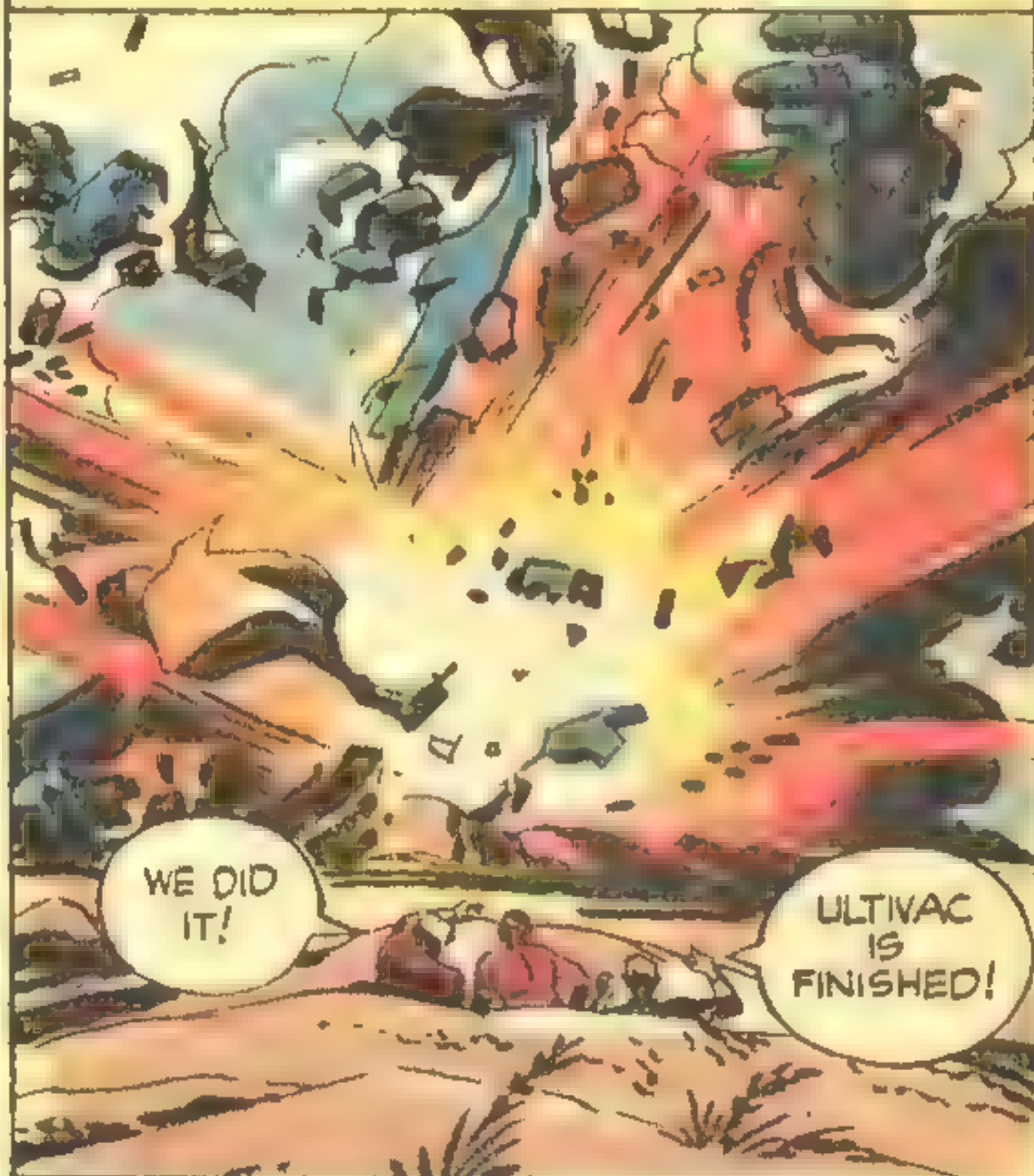


ROCKY SWIFTLY ENTERS THE ACTION, CARRYING A SPECIALLY PREPARED BOMB WITH MAGNETIC CLAMPS! MOVING IN BEHIND ULTIVAC, HE ATTACHES THE BOMB TO THE GREAT ROBOT!

GOOD WORK, ROCKY! NOW RUN FOR COVER BEFORE THAT THING BLOWS!



FROM BEHIND AN IMPROVISED DUGOUT, THE THREE CHALLENGERS WATCH THE BOMB DESTROY ULTIVAC!

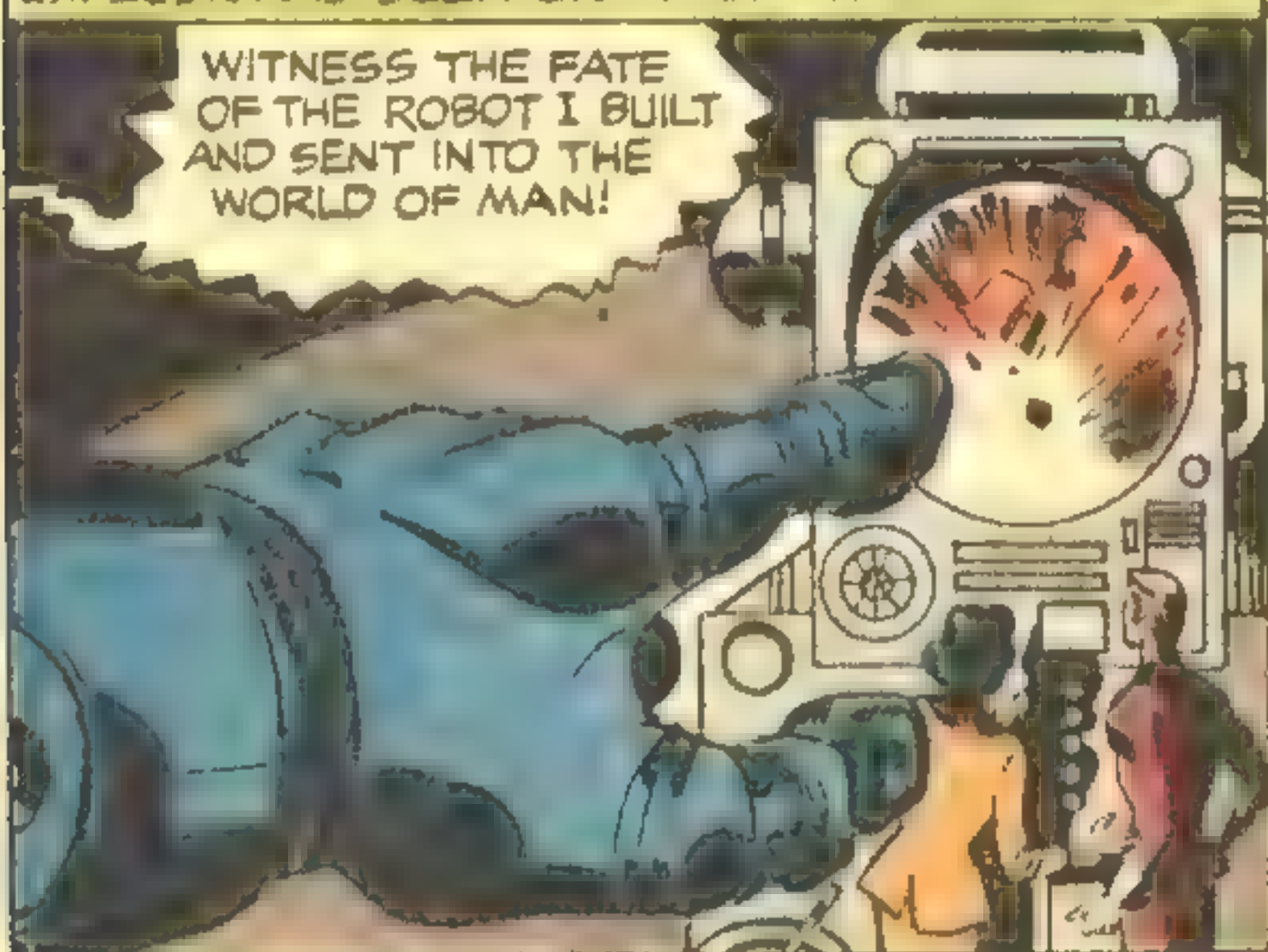


WE DID IT!

ULTIVAC IS FINISHED!

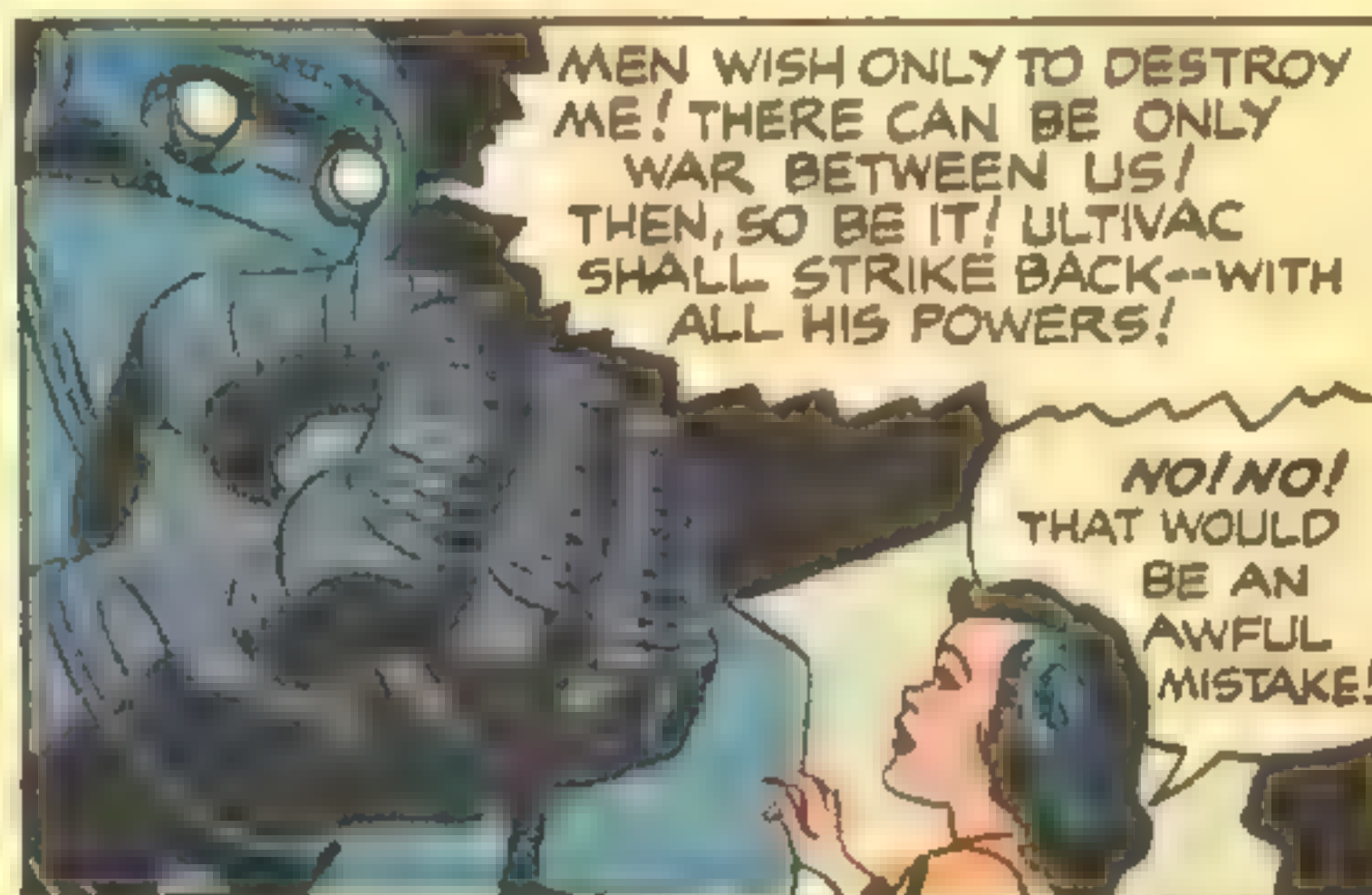
HOWEVER, NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH! IN ULTIVAC'S UNDERSEA CAVERN, THE EXPLOSION IS SEEN ON A TELEVISION SCREEN.

WITNESS THE FATE OF THE ROBOT I BUILT AND SENT INTO THE WORLD OF MAN!



MEN WISH ONLY TO DESTROY ME! THERE CAN BE ONLY WAR BETWEEN US! THEN, SO BE IT! ULTIVAC SHALL STRIKE BACK--WITH ALL HIS POWERS!

NO! NO! THAT WOULD BE AN AWFUL MISTAKE!



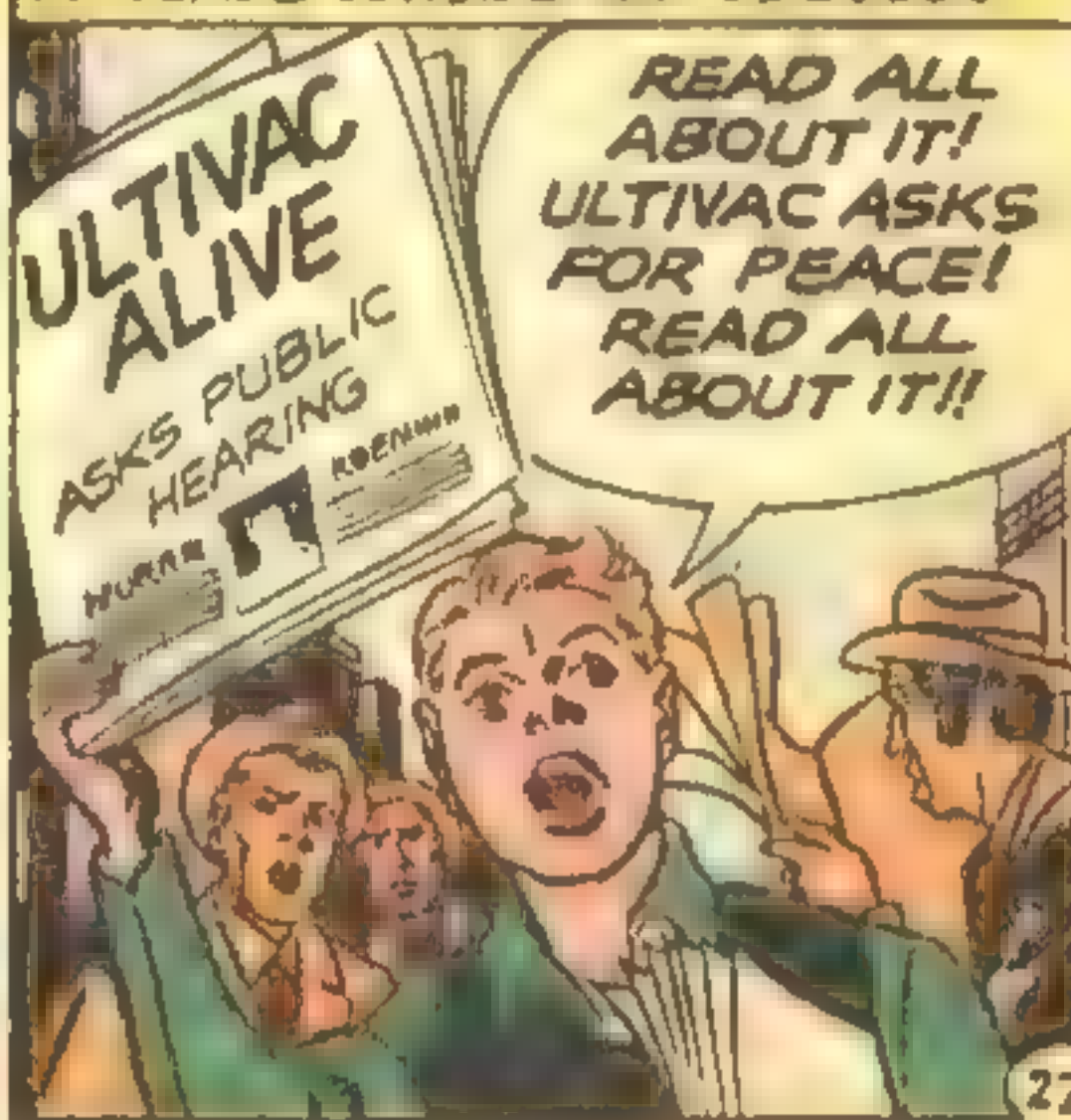
WARS NEVER SOLVE ANYTHING! YOU CAN'T WIN A WAR! GIVE MANKIND A CHANCE TO UNDERSTAND YOU--AND MAN WILL BE YOUR FRIEND... AS I AM!



VERY WELL!-- I TRUST YOUR WISDOM! I SHALL THROW MYSELF UPON MAN'S SENSE OF JUSTICE, BUT BE WARNED... I SHALL ALSO BE ON THE ALERT FOR TREACHERY!

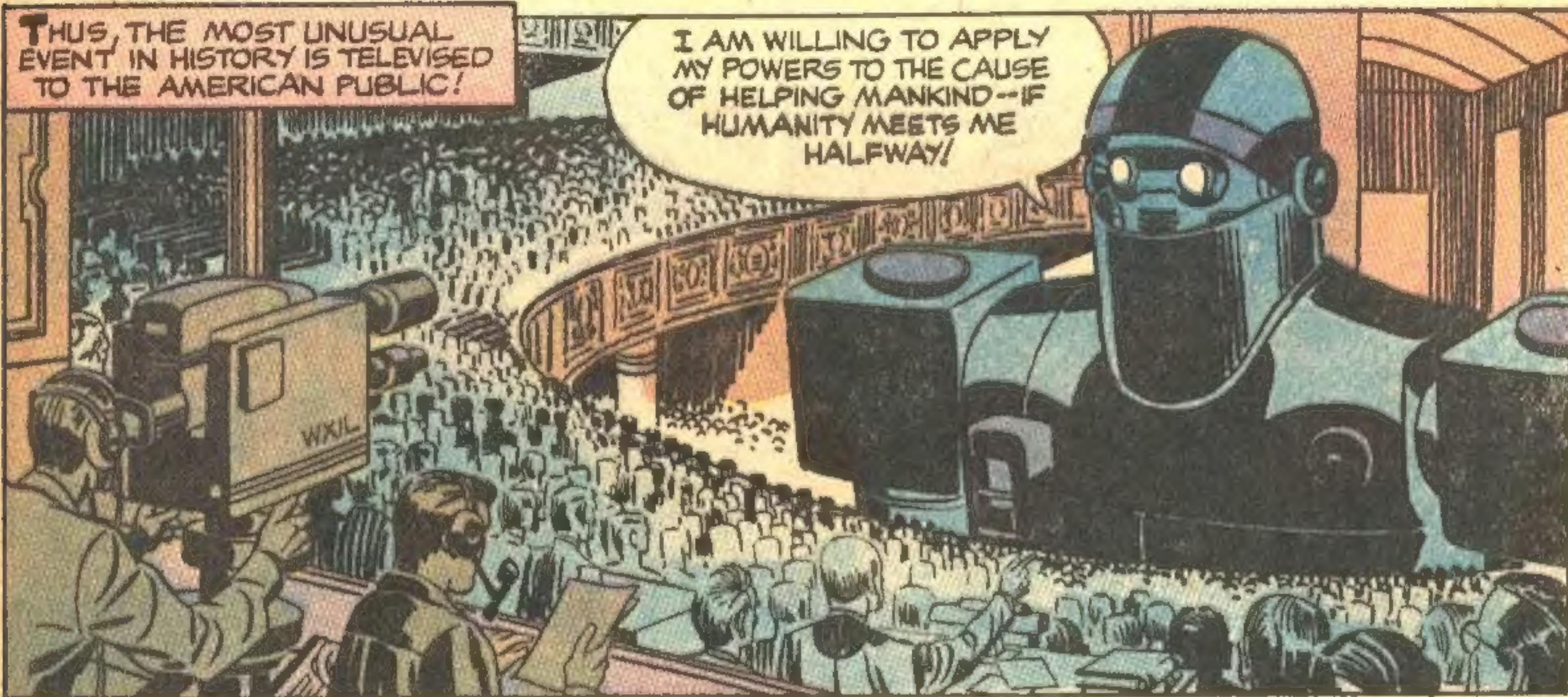


DAYS LATER, AN ASTOUNDED WORLD IS ROCKED BY A NEW DEVELOPMENT IN A CASE CONSIDERED CLOSED!



READ ALL ABOUT IT! ULTIVAC ASKS FOR PEACE! READ ALL ABOUT IT!!

THUS, THE MOST UNUSUAL EVENT IN HISTORY IS TELEVIEWED TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC!



I AM WILLING TO APPLY MY POWERS TO THE CAUSE OF HELPING MANKIND--IF HUMANITY MEETS ME HALFWAY!

WE CAN! WE WILL! IN JUSTICE TO ULTRAVAC, WE MUST DO OUR BEST TO HELP HIM! ULTRAVAC SHOULD BE GOVERNMENT PROPERTY...WORKING FOR THE WELFARE OF ALL THE PEOPLE..DO NOT TURN HIM DOWN!



BUT THERE ARE TWO IN THE CROWD WHO HAVE OTHER IDEAS... FELIX HESSE AND FLOYD BARKER!

THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO RIGHT TO ULTRAVAC! WE ARE HIS LEGAL OWNERS--AND WE INTEND TO KEEP HIM!

ULTRAVAC IS WORTH MORE MONEY TO US THAN THE GOVERNMENT CAN PAY! HE IS OURS!



ALSO AMONG THE SPECTATORS ARE THE CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN. ACE REPLIES ANGRILY TO HESSE'S CLAIM!

YOU'VE PROVEN UNFIT TO CONTROL ULTRAVAC! IN YOUR HANDS, HE WOULD BE A CONSTANT WORLD MENACE!

DON'T BE GREEDY, HESSE...TAKE THE GOVERNMENT'S OFFER! LEAVE ULTRAVAC TO THOSE WHO WILL DEAL WITH HIM CONSTRUCTIVELY!



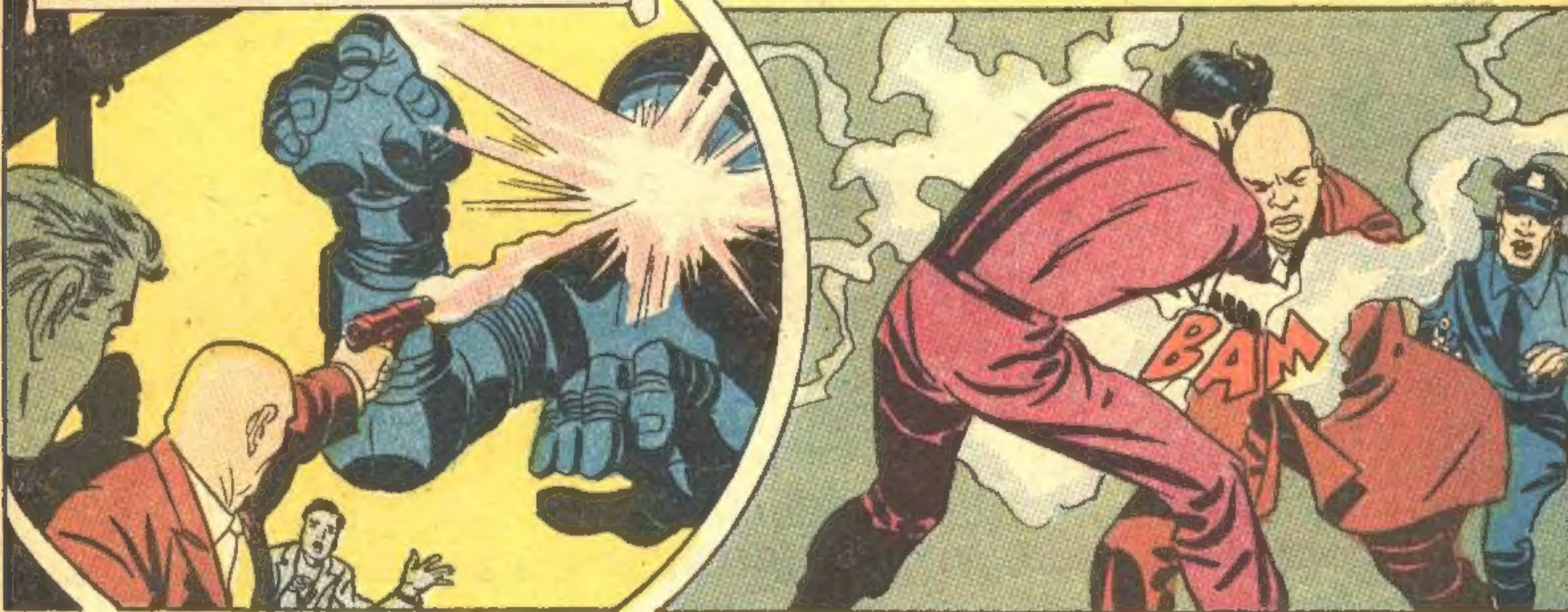
HE'S MY PROPERTY, I TELL YOU! IF I CAN'T OWN HIM...THEN NOBODY SHALL!

LOOK OUT! HE'S GOT A GUN!



THEN, BEFORE ANYONE CAN STOP HIM, HESSE BLASTS AWAY AT ULTIVAC...

ROCKY LEAPS AT HESSE... BUT IN THE STRUGGLE FOR THE GUN, THE CHALLENGER IS SHOT!



ROCKY IS IMMEDIATELY OPERATED UPON AS HE REACHES THE HOSPITAL. IT IS A DESPERATE BATTLE TO SAVE HIS LIFE...

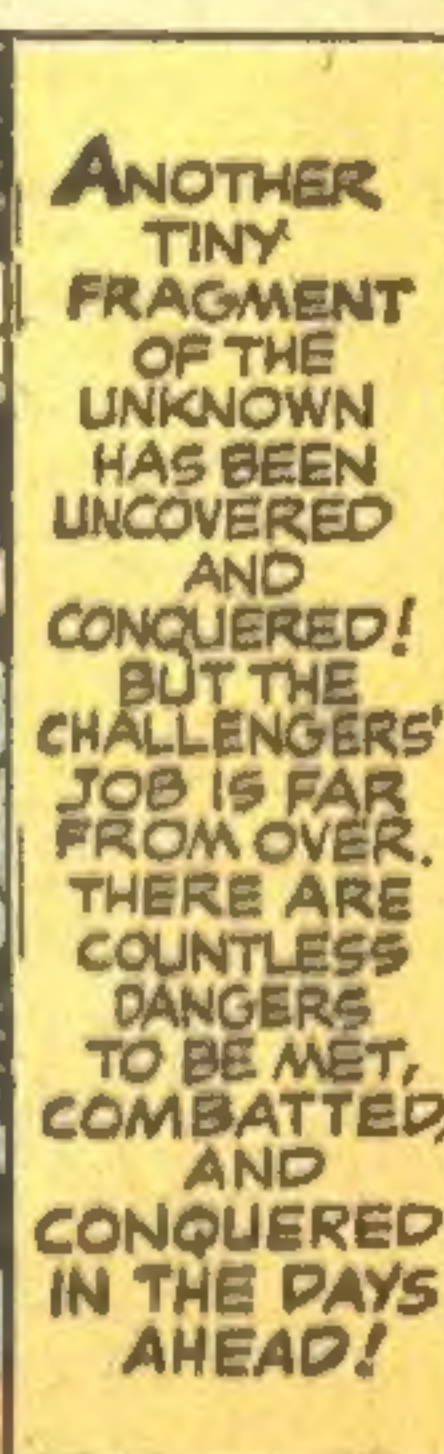
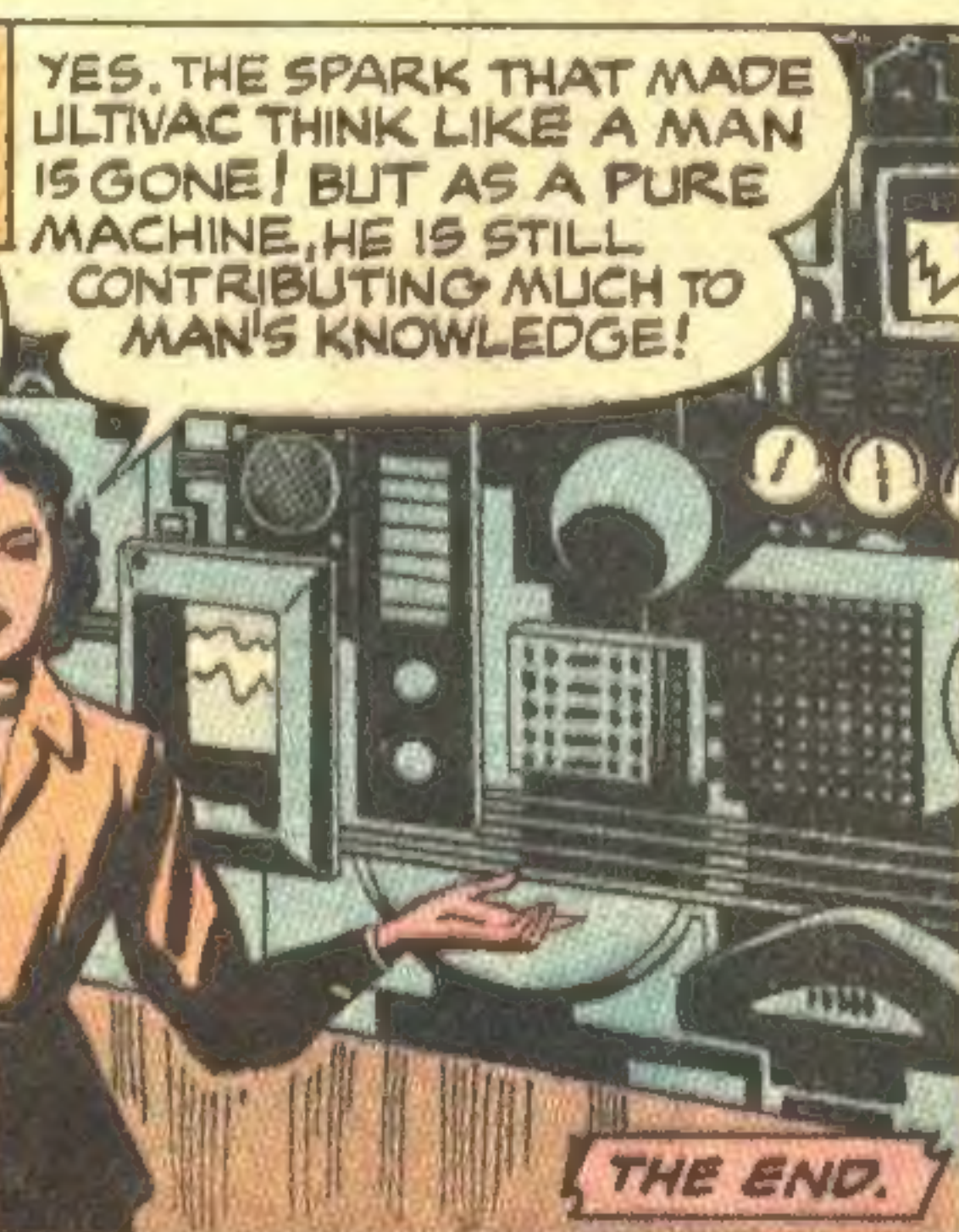
HE'S LOSING GROUND... I DON'T LIKE IT!

WE MUST WORK FASTER!



THERE'S NO HEART BEAT!--I'M AFRAID--HE'S GONE--





THE END.

NOW YOU CAN MAKE AS MANY **HOT WHEELS** CARS AS YOU WANT.

- 10 NEW BODY STYLES.
- CUSTOMIZE 'EM. RACE 'EM.
- JUST AS FAST BECAUSE
THEY'RE REAL **HOT WHEELS**.



HOT WHEELS **FACTORY**